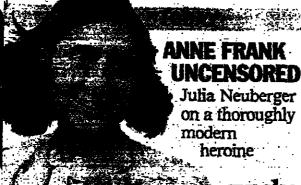
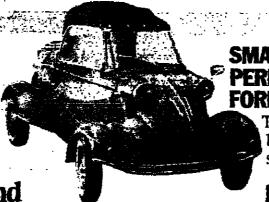
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NONDAYS THE TIMES FOR ONL'

Minister starts storm with 'beggars are Scottish' outburst



CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID MACLEAN, the Home Office Minister, last night caused a storm when he declared that most beggars were Scots and that they were on the streets through choice.

Mr Maclean, the rightwing Scots oorn MP for Penrith and the Border, said there was no justification for begging and those who did were "a disgrace" and "an embarnent". His remarks were immediately condemned by the Opposition and charities represent-

ing homeless people. Labour described his remarks as "an insult to fellow Scots" which showed that the Government had a "care nothing, do nothing attitude".

FLUS INSIDE: 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS. THE

Charities said his comments were "unjustifiable" and claimed that many youngsters were forced to beg because of benefit cuts.

In an interview with the News & Star, Carlisle, this week, Mr Maclean said he had always given beggars something — a piece of his mind. "Most of them are Scottish and I've never met one yet who politely and gently asked for

He added: "There are no genuine beggars. Those who are in need have got all the social benefits they require. Every time we go and check, we find they won't go in hostels. Beggars are doing so out of choice because they find it more

Mr Maclean defended his comments last night but accused Labour deliberately misinterpreting them. "As any sensible person would appreciate I meant no insult to the Scottish people. I am a Scot myself and proud of it."

His remarks follow the outcry

was accused by the Prime Minister of hypocrisy after he backed tough "zero tolerance" policies agains peny criminals and said he would not give money to beggars. Mr Blair said he wanted the homeless to be taken off the streets but only if there was proper alternative provision.

Last night government and Tory party sources railied to Mr Maclean's defence. Terry Dicks. MP for Hayes and Harlington, was outspoken: I am not certain they are ali Scots, but I think those who are begging should be hosed down and that the disgrace of cardboard

we should be looking after are those who have been abused at home. But most of the others. I have to say, are just scum.

Henry Mcleish, a Labour frontbencher, said Mr Maclean's comments spoke volumes about the Tory Government. This Govern-ment has a care nothing, do nothing attitude and in times of failure seeks only scapegoats, not solutions."

Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat MP joined in the backlash. "If he thinks that Scots are living on the streets of London in this weather out of choice, then he's more foolish

A spokeswoman for Shelter said that many youngsters under 18 were forced to beg on the streets because the Government had cut their benefit. She added that evidence did not suggest more beggars came from Scotland than the North or the Home Counties. Crisis, an organisation to help the homeless, said: Begging is not a chosen way of life

... it is a bleak, miserable existence." A spokesman for Centrepoint, the homeless charity, said that seven out of ten young people it saw come from the London area.

Letters, page 23

£200 rabies test under plan for pet passports

By Valerie Elliott, whitehall editor

PETS could seen accompany heir owners on holiday abroad mider government proposals to relax the world's oughest quarantine rules and lace them with a £200 same day" rables check.

The new control would apply only to animals travelling from "isolated, rables-free countries and they would have to be fitted with a

had been vaccinated.
The "passport-for-pets" scheme is based on the Swedscheme is based including diplomats and Service families, who claim that quarantine is too draconian.

The fast-track system is ikely to apply to animals travelling from the European Union, Cyprus, Malta and possibly Australia and New Zealand. But the change is unlikely to affect those coming from America and Canada and certainly not to South America, Africa or Asia. That means there will be no comfort for Chris Patten, the returning Governor of Hong Kong who has championed the passport scheme, or for his Highland. terriers, Whisky and Soda.

Senior ministers, recognising that the issue could be a vote-winner at the general election, have set out to devise a "good, tight, practical sys-tem". Douglas Hogg, Agricul-ture Minister, has told Cabinet colleagues that he is determined to maintain the level of protection to the public rainst rabies, but he is con-vinced that scientific advances

now allow checks to be made checks would be tough. It is on animals within a day. Under the proposals to be outlined in a Green Paper within a month, a number on the microchip would have to match the official documents issued by a vet. This would verify that the animal had been vaccinated and that a blood test had proven the

would not travel inti Britain with their owners but would be handed over to an authorised carrier at the foreign port or airport. On arrival in Britain, the carrier would be responsible for delivering the animal to one of a number of checking centres, which are likely to be set up at existing registered quarantine kennels.

At the checking centres, the pets would be assessed by vets and their documents scrutinised for a proposed fee of £200. If the paperwork was in order and the pet deemed fit and healthy, it would be allowed home with his owner. Vets would, however, have the right to detain any animal or papers about which they had doubts - and all animals traveiling from countries harbouring rabies would still face

six months in quarantine. Traveliers attempting to smuggle animals into the country would still face tough penalties, but ministers believe that people will be dis-couraged from smuggling as they would no longer have to pay £1,500 quarantine fees. A Whitehall source said: "The new regime would be very tightly monitored and the

not going to be a free and open system, it will be as tough as the present arrangements. But it would provide for most people travelling abroad on holiday as well as those going

on longer stays."
Lady Fretwell, chairman for Passport for Pets, said: "If this proposal is right, then it would be fantastic news and I would vet checking the animals would be totally independent of the kennels used as check-

Paul DeVile, chief veterinary officer for the National Canine Defence League and a strong opponent of any relaxation, said: "I have reservations about whether we could cope with the huge numbers of animals that would come into the country. We would need to know the saleguards from third-party countries via EU

countries. Guy Tamplin, of the Quarantine Kennel Owners' Association, was deeply sceptical. "If we are looking at rabies-free countries, the only places are Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Hawaii, Portugal and Spain. But France has rabies and if we are saying pers can travel through France, that is not rabies-free "

Labour is also committed to reviewing the quarantine rules and Eliot Morley, the party's animal welfare spokes man, said yesterday that he believed a system based on vaccination, bloodtesting and microchip identification could be leasible.



Canvas characters come to life at the National Gallery on Wednesday when look-alikes model costumes made by Wimbledon School of Art students. Charlie Copson chose Hannah Sida, above, to be Moroni's La Dama in Rosso

Population shift World population growth is

slowing for the first time, excluding the Black Death and the flu epidemic at the end of the Great War, a geograpers' conference heard Page 10

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Dying prisoner kept chained to bed

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service launched an inquiry last night into why a man was chained to his bed by his leg and arms until three hours before he died in a cancer hospice.

Geoffrey Thomas, 25, a remand prisoner, was kept shackled for three days in spite of pleas from his family and medical staff. The two officers guarding him had no discretion to let him go and he was released only after an emergency bail order was granted. By then he was

unconscious. family, doctors and local Labour MP joined penal reform groups in condemning the prison authorities for their

"callous" behaviour. Marina Davies, his mother, said: "I begged the guards to take his chains off but they would not listen. We asked to be left alone with him but they would not do that either. By the time they finally took off the chains and left us with him, he was unconscious."

Mr Thomas, of Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, had been remanded to Cardiff jail in October accused of burglary. He had previous convictions and was in custody because he had a history of not answering to bail. He became ill on December 23 and was admitted to hospital. There, he was diagnosed as being in the final stages of stomach cancer and he was transferred to the Last night Mr Thomas's Marie Curie Centre at Penarth on New Year's Day. He died on January 3.

Professor flora Finlay, the hospice's medical director, said: "Having a chain on and two prison officers in attendance seemed unnecessarily

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SIMON JENKINS 22

high security for a man who was so ill. Mr Thomas couldn't have run away anywhere. He needed help to sit up in bed. His mother was signing the papers to take him over on bail, and within 15 minutes of that he died."

Tony Pearson, the service's director of security, admitted that it was very unlikely that it would be necessary to chain a prisoner in a hospice. He said: "We have to measure humanitarian needs against the need to hold people in secure custody. Whether we got the balance right in this case or not is something we shall have to work out from the inquiry I have set up."

The inquiry will be conducted by Jim Mulian, governor of Long Lartin jail, assisted by a doctor. Mr Pearson said that if the service had acted inappropriately, the family would receive an apology.



Thomas: pleas ignored

The inquiry comes after the controversy last year about vomen being kept in chains while in labour. The rules in such circumstances have since been relaxed, but discretion to remove chains from other patients lies with the prison governor: a prison officer cannot authorise their removal.

Halifax float handout will average £1,290

THE 8.5 million members of the Halifax Building Society will receive free shares worth an average of £1,290 when the society abandons its traditional mutual status and becomes a bank in June. Its stock market value could be as high as £12 billion.

Those who are both savers and borrowers will get a maximum windfall of £6.215. The average payment to each member is 23 per cent more than originally predicted.

The Halifax's market debut will be the largest extension of share ownership, increasing the number of private shareholders in Britain by some 30 per cent to 12 million.

Share bonanza, page 27 Tempus, page 30 Weekend Money, page 31

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Archbishop tells Church to stress British successes

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of York has wrote an article in The Church praised Britain's achievements and urged the country to focus on its successes.

In remarks that could be seen to be supporting the Government, Dr David Hope said: "I am not saying we have never had it so good. I would not want to say that. But the overriding pessimism has to be tempered and balanced by a recognition of some positive factors about where Britain is and some of this country's

In his first important interview since translation from London in October 1995. Dr Hope urged Church leaders to consider carefully what they say in the run-up to an election. But he insisted the Church had the right to speak out on politics provided it avoided party political matters.

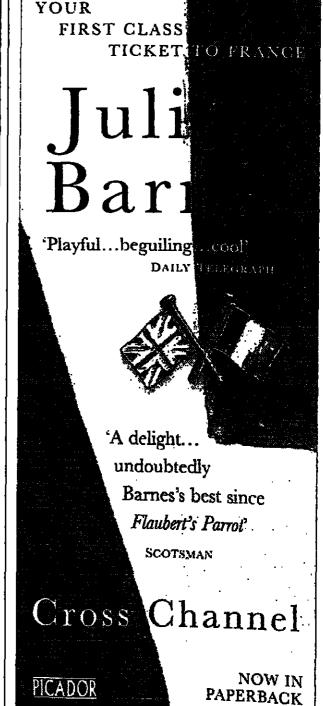
The Church must be involved in political affairs," he said. "But bishops must not get themselves too involved in party political programmes." He made his remarks before the Bishop of Edinburgh

Times urging voters to support Labour. The Right Rev Richard Holloway, who is primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said the general election offered the Labour Party a chance to transform the "unjust reality of life in Britain".

Dr Hope said Church lead-ers should urge worshippers to consider moral and spiritual issues at the ballot box, echoing the recent document from the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales, The Common Good. But he said: "We have to counter this sense that we are on a path of national decline and that the future is bleak There is much work to do, whoever wins the election, but it is not all bad news."

Dr Hope was speaking out against a background of public concern that the the Church of England leadership has become irretrievably left-wing after a series of Anglican bishops have sung the pra-Continued on page 2, co! 5

Leading article, page 23



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Major hints at May 1 election

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN DHAKA

JOHN MAJOR yesterday gave the clearest indications yet that he is aiming to call a general election on May I. In Bangalore. India. as he continued his six-day tour. Mr Major sharply rebuffed suggestions that he had given up

hope of carrying on until May. At an impromptu press conference after flying in from Calcutta he appeared sur-prised when asked whether the decision to call the Wirral South by-election, which will result in him going into mi-nority government if he loses, meant that May was being abandoned as an election possibility.

ly not." he said with surprising emphasis. May I has been his preferred date for more than a year and nothing that has happened in recent weeks has shifted his view that it offers the best chance of pulling off another surprise victory. He could still be thwarted by a Commons defeat on a confidence motion. which would force him into an

earlier poll. Mr Major received an unusual endorsement as he left India when Deve Gowda, the Indian Prime Minister, said he hoped he would win the general election. The two have been getting on well but Mr Gowda's endorsement

The Referendum Party launches a £1 million poster campaign today, in which it accuses Brussels of imposing more than 100 rules on Britain every week. The campaign by Sir James Goldsmith's party, headlined "Brussels Spouts", will use more than 4,500 sites, including all the billboards around the Labour headquarters in Walworth Road, south London, and a large poster site outside the railway station in Huntingdon, John Major's constituency. The party is also running newspaper advertisements claiming that it has "chilling proof" that the public was lied to about the loss of sovereignity involved in joining the John Campbell, page 22 Common Market.

amounts to a breach of the convention under which prime ministers do not get involved in party politics in other countries.

Brian Mawhinney, Conservative chairman announced

election will be called early next month - in spite of the imminence of the general election - and will take place late in February or early in March. The move does not rule out March 20 as a possible date. It may point to April 10, the

other contender, or May 1, in order to allow time for reactions to defeat to calm. But, as Labour leaders have swiftly noted, it also leaves open the way for Mr Major to call the by-election to prevent Labour forcing it in a Commons vote - only then to announce the general election for March and eliminate the need for the

by-election. Mr Major, and sources close to him, yesterday seemed to be steering away from that option by playing down the likelihood of a March election. He told journalists that the Wirral South decision was prompted by a desire to honour parliamentary conven-tions that by-elections after an MP's death should be held

within three months. The seat where there is a Tory majority of over 8,000, became vacant after the death of Barry Porter

Mr Major and other minis ters believe that the by-election can help the Tory cause by effectively prolonging the length of the election campaign. A local campaign followed by a national campaign would allow a lengthy period for the scrutiny of rival poli-cies which he believes to be the

Tones' best card. Neither Mr Major nor his Cabinet colleagues are predicting a Wirral victory but it has already been decided that a substantial campaign will be mounted.

Major in India, page 15

Archbishop paints a picture of hope from bleak landscape

THE Archbishop of York's optimism results from his experience of visiting commu-nities throughout his diocese and province. They have convinced him that the picture of life in Britain was not as bleak as it was sometimes painted.

But his intervention in the debate on Church and politics is not without calculated significance. The Church's voice recently has been a litany of Britain's woes, some focused directly, some obliquely, at failures of the Government.

Dr David Hope is clearly trying not only to redress the balance but also to show there is a voice within the Church that is not afraid to stand up for traditional. conservative values. Coming at the beginning of an election year. his words will encourage ordinary clerics to follow his example in their daily and weekly round of visits, services and preaching.

Many are disillusioned

with the apparent domination of the House of Bishops by the politically correct, liberal left wing and feel the picture of apparent decline under a Tory Government which the established Church seems so quick to condemn, is not necessarily complete. "The danger is that the Church of



Dr David Hope is anxious to show that a voice within the Church is not afraid to speak out for traditional values,

England very often can be judged by the agenda of the General Synod, when often that is not the agenda being pursued in the parish," the Yorkshire-born cleric said. For example, there are many criticisms of the health service, some of them are legitimate. Yet the development of medical technology of surgery has been significant indeed."

That in turn had created problems about how much was spent. "People begin to expect more and more, and at some point there have to be crucial and painful questions asked because there are limits to the kind of money that is available. But every country is facing the same questions.

On the other side of the coin, he criticised the "insidious" problem of welfare dependance. "It is extraodinary. how much is being spent on the welfare state. There is evidence from across the world that welfare destroys as much as it protects. The

Ruth Gledhill reports political consensus in Britain

seems to be quite advanced in that sense, that there is a problem and we are going to tackle it and not add to it." He went on: "I discern a restlessness and a spiritual searching for the deep down things of the human being. We, the Church, ought to be addressing this. We ought to be speaking more of the things of God to the people of the land. At the parochial level I see many clergy and laity faithfully pursuing and responding to the Church's witness and mission.

That is what we need to keep clear before us. Coming . from the Tractarian tradition, I am very conscious that everything needs to be seen in the wider perspective of eternity, of how the things of God

engage with our lives today."
Bishops who engage in politics should remember the Church's fundamental mission: "The Church is there for the celebration of the sacra-



Dr David Hope at home yesterday: "We need to celebrate our successes"

ments, prayer and the reading of the scriptures. It is important that we go on rehearsing and setting out what the basic understanding and tradition and teaching is in these

He cited reports from early this century, where language used about the disintegration of the family was far more apocalyptic than it is even today, and said the Church had a strong tradition of teachings on areas such as abortion and euthanasia.

"We must not underesti-

mate the downside. The Jamie Bulger murder, Dun-blane and the murder of Philip Lawrence, have certainly raised questions about the nature of our society, and deeper questions for me about our human nature given us by God, and the potential that there is in each of us both for good and evil.

We need to keep the balance. But if we get into a wholy negative way of thinking then everything is viewed from that particular perspective. We always need to be

seeing the things of this world in the light of eternity."

"The general impression is that in 1997, whatever the results of an election, there are good prospects for Britain."
Dr Hope continued. "There does seem to be somehow a loss of national self-confidence. We need to celebrate our successes. I believe there are considerable resources and strengths in the country which we need to talk up."

Credo, page 10 Leading article, page 23

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Archbishop hails positive Britain

Continued from page I ises of the Labour Party and accused the Tories of failing to put morality at the heart of government policy. "We can be our own worst enemies, both as a nation and a Church," he said. "We must speak up for Britain and the way people have

responded to new challenges."

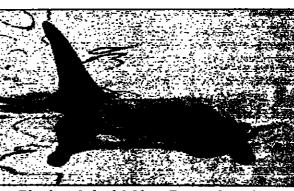
Britain was the envy of the world in some important areas, and this was not acknowledged often enough by bishops.

If you look at Britain in the context of Europe or the wider world community. people outside these shores are rather more envious of us than we realise. For example, the anti-Europeans are allowed a much stronger and more obvious voice here than elsewhere in Europe."

The Bishop of Edinburgh was criticised by Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Tory party. Sir Michael, who is also a Church of Scotland Elder, said:

"Bishop Holloway is old enough to remember the last Labour governmen" which brought much chaos and misery to the most disadvantaged in this society." The Scottish Tory Reform Group also called on the Archbishop of Canterbury publicly to disown the "irresponsible and foolish comments" made by Mr Holloway.

Leading article, page 23



Disoriented: the dolphin at Emsworth Harbour

Woman dies in bid to rescue dog on frozen river

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

A WOMAN died yesterday after falling into an icy river while trying to rescue her dog. The animal survived.

She spent almost two hours in the Thames at Reading before being rescued and taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where doctors struggled in vain to keep her alive. Police had been alerted by someone who saw her in difficulties from a house near the river.

The victim was walking her dog along the river when it ran onto the frozen surface. She is understood to have followed it onto a patch of thin ice that collapsed beneath her. After the alarm was raised, police divers and two helicopters were called in to search for her Three other people have died over Christmas while trying to rescue dogs on frozen

water. On Boxing Day, Tony

Rees, from Merthyr Tydfyl, died after trying to save a

spaniel drowning in an icy lake. Three days later William and Jill Willis, from Averly, Essex, fell into a lake in a country park after running over ice to try to free their trapped dog. Last night time was running

out sfor an ailing and confused dolphin trapped in cold water in a yacht marina. The dolphin arrived in the Tarquin Boaryard in Emsworth Harbour. Hampshire, at 9,30am yesterday and spent most of the day swimming aimlessly in circles. Attempts to get alongside

the bewildered creature in a flat-bottomed boat and coax it out to sea had to be abandoned as darkness fell. Ray Kemp, an environment agency spokesman, said: "The dolphin may have come inshore after being disoriented by winter storms and now seems unable to find its way out."

A couple in Lowestoft, Suffolk, said they had saved two ailing ornamental fish by giving them the kiss of life. John Day, a car park inspector, said: "I opened their mouths with my thumb and forefinger and gently blew air in."

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ACCOMMODATION

election Advisers seek to divorce Prince from scandals such a lousy prese? Mr starkey the historian, told the same programme that earlier that same programme that earlier to have nerstanded fits master to have nersta



The Prince feels that the

Apple State of the State of the

Wales were fired yesterday after a five-year media obsession with his private life. Leading figures in his charities gave radio and television interviews to emphasise his good works.

In the year in which the Prince's Trust, the largest charity of its kind in Britain with a £30 million annual turnover, celebrates its twenty-first anniversary, the Prince's advisers hope that media attention will shift from his divorce and the of Camilla Parker Bowles to his more positive achieveits. But there is little sign

Prince of Wales's halo. But Alan Hamilton sees little sign of an effective strategy to rescue him from public unpopularity

more acceptable king-in-wait-

Tom Shebbeare, director of

the Prince's Trust, told BBC

Radio 4's The World At One

yesterday that the Prince's divorce had been a watershed

and that it was time to

underline his "enormous"

public achivements. "I won-

public figure who through his

charities has created 60,000

jobs in ten years, and yet gets

ing have been denied.

from his doldrums of unpopularity, underlined by a vote during Tuesday night's ITV debate on the monarchy.

News of a meeting on Wednesday between senior officials at St James's Palace and the directors of his main charities, at which the Prince was not present, was allowed to leak out yesterday. Reports that the meeting was of a new of a strategy to rescue him ed to making the Prince a new relationship with the media, but that would be difficult as he felt "wounded and savaged" by them.

مكذا ص الأصل

Julia Cleverdon, chief executive of Business In The Community, another of the Prince's charities, said that with the divorce out of the way and a new team of advisers at St James's Palace. there was an opportunity to turn a fresh page.

But the Prince was not

suddenly going to adopt easier or more fashionable causes than his concerns of inner city regeneration, youth unemployment, architecture and organic farming. David

has sold itself "brilliantly" on family values but that pitch had fallen to pieces. "To sell it now as a do-gooding monarchy will not grab the

headlines." Palace officials dismissed reports of a five-year plan to improve the Prince's image. They are nevertheless aware of the looming date of 2002, when attention will be focused on the Queen's golden jubilee and the Prince's fitness to succeed her.

The feeling of a new broom at St James's Palace has been by the departure shortly before Christmas of Commander Richard Aylard.

make a public admission of adultery with Mrs Parker Bowles. The commander has been succeeded by his deputy. Stephen Lamport on secondment from the Foreign Office. and Mark Bolland, recruited from his post as secretary of the Press Complaints Com-

mission. There are no signs of a significant change in the Prince's programme. On Monday he will be in Edinburgh promoting the idea of study support centres, a highly successful Prince's Trust scheme to provide schoolchildren from noisy or

crowded homes with quiet

In the spring he will spearhead a trade mission to Gulf states and will make an official visit to Bangladesh as a prelude to the Queen's tour of the Indian subcontinent to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of independence.

In June he will travel to Hong Kong to witness the handover of the colony to China, but Palace officials stressed yesterday that the Prince was not taking over state visits from the Queen, as some reports have suggested. The Queen does not make a habit of being present when the remaining fragments of the Empire are given away.

Letters, page 23

Opera house says it 'cannot afford' schools matinées

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

THE Royal Opera House says providing the children with Tringy be forced to scrap its educed-price maninee performances for schools because it

cannot afford them. The admission comes after matinees for the 1995-96 season were saved by the eleventh-hour intervention of arts patrons — despite the com-pany having received a £78 milion grant from the National Lottery partly aimed

at improving accessibility. The gesture by David and Janice Blackburn saved Covent Garden from a storm of accusations as critics said that the poor were once again subsidising the rich. But yesterday history seemed to be repeating itself.

The company, which insists it is urgently seeking a sponsor, needs £90,000 to ensure that children can attend six schools matinées - three bailets and three operas. The house is also £63 million short of its £214 million redevelopment appeal, for which

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fundraising continues: Darryl Jaffray, a former Royal Ballet dancer and head of the house's ballet education. expressed dismay over the possible loss of the matinees. which are seen by children who would not otherwise be

study packs about the produc-tion. We see a higher level of attention and understanding from the young people than from adult audiences. At the end, they go absolutely mad and boo the baddies. It's amazing."

The waiting list for the subsidised tickets is double-oversubstribed, she said. One primary school pupil. Lynsey Bryant, wrote to her: "I liked talking to the dancers. 1 have never been to Covent Garden before, so it was nice fun to go. I would really like to go again with my family. But it cost too much."

Ms Jaffray said that the lottery grant was for bricks and not for us", adding: "We run a huge education pro-gramme all over the country every day of the week.

The company is awaiting news this month of its Arts Council core funding, but Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs, said that the matinées were in addition to the performance schedule for which funding was given. The grant we receive from the Arts Council only amounts to 37 per cent of our overall running costs, So anything we do beyond funding our education is sponsorship-

anyone who had experienced Covent Garden's work with children felt that its image as a stuffy, elitist place was unjustified. If more people were aware of their education work, he said, they would see the opera house in a different

The support given by the Blackburns had preserved education programmes, which included lectures at Central St Martin's and Glasgow School of Art, and activities at the Whitechapel Art Gallery; next year, they are sponsoring education programmes at the Tate Gallery.

Their help also ensured that the house was filled to capacity yesterday morning as children aged seven upwards attended a production of Sleeping Beauty.
Every child approached by

The Times expressed excitement at coming. Some dressed for the occasion: their best party-dress was under their

The audience included a group from the special unit of the Great Ormond Street Hospital. Emma, 9, said: "I like ballet

because I like the way-their toes point." Jasbir, an Il-yearold boy from Southall, west London, said: "It's wicked. The music's so good and the Mr Blackburn said that background looks nice I saw



Children from Warrender school in Ruislip, west London, watching Sleeping Beauty. One 11-year-old said: "It's wicked. The music's so good"

part of it on Blue Peter and iiked it."

One of the teachers, Chris Shasha from Oakfarm Infants School in Hillingdon, west London, said that the school matinées were "absolutely vital". "What an opportunity for the children. Such a great ballet and such a major hall. The majority would never be able to come otherwise."

Richard Morrison, page 21

Life in the South drove engineer to take his life

years become increasingly un-AN ENGINEER who moved from northern England to take a job in the South killed

cope with the cultural differ-ences and the cost of living. Alan Morris, 46, a Civil Aviation Authority engineer and father of two, felt alienat-

ed when he was relocated from Manchester to Gatwick Airport, an inquest was told yesterday. He despaired of house prices that were double those in the North and hated being a stranger in the Survey commuter belt where he and his family rented a house. He was found hanged in the garage last month, 16 months

after the move. He left a note arying that he loved his family and accusing the CAA of helping to push him over the

edge.
His wife, Janet, wept as she

stable. Before moving Alan take a job in the South killed was a very happy man. We himself because he could not lived in Chester but he didn't mind travelling to Manchester to work. It was a job he loved. But when he was told to move down south, everything changed. We tried to find a house but the prices were so much more down here."

"Alan was paying university fees of £4,500 a year for one of our daughters. I got myself a job at Sainsbury's, but even so Alan was taking most of the financial burden himself and the strain began to tell."

Her husband was also

struggling to cope at work, where he was using unfamil-iar equipment. He sought psychiatric help but things got "worse and worse".

Dr Michael Rowlands, Mr His wife, Janet, wept as she told the inquest how she watched her husband of 22 soon discovered that houses in

the North costing £90,000 cost up to £180,000 in Surrey. He felt uncomfortable in the South, feeling he didn't quite belong and that there were differences in culture. He also told me that he had the threat through the possible privatisa-

tion of the organisation he worked for. Yesterday the CAA said that it was shocked and saddened by Mr Morris's death and was doing everything possible to support his family through a difficult time.

Neighbours said that they knew little about the family. One man living just a few doors away said: "I was very shocked to hear what had happened but we didn't know them and had no idea they had any problems."

Lois Lodge, the assistant Surrey coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Pay victory served up to dinner ladies

DINNER ladies are likely to share £4 million in an out-ofcourt settlement of an equal pay dispute, it was announced yesterday.

The 1,500 wamen, members of the GMB general union and Unison public services union, hundreds to several thousands of pounds if they sanction the deal next week.

The unions lodged equal pay claims at industrial tribunals on behalf of the women 18 months ago, when they worked for what was then Cleveland County Council. They claimed their pay was up to 40 per cent lower than other workers, including gardeners and refuse collectors who had bonus payments consolidated

into their wages. Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said: This sets the principle that women manual workers are entitled to the same treatment as men on bonuses."



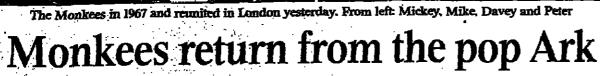
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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY





- By Damian Whitworth

IT WOULD be easy to dismiss them as daydream believers but 30 years after they split up, the squeaky clean 1960s pop idols The Monkees are back. Yesterday they met in London to announce a British tour and a new album.

Peter, Mickey, Mike and Davey were manufactured by Californian marketing

manufactured by Californian marketing men as the American answer to The Beatles and produced four consecutive

number-one albums and three numberone singles, I'm A Believer, Daydream Believer and Last Train to Clarksville. Their success came on the back of their own television series, which recorded their fictional ups and downs. Their real-life fortunes in the intervening decades have been mixed. Davey Jones, 52, the Manchester-born guitarist and only British member of the group, said: "It's not dollars and cents that matter. It's a case of enjoying what we do. It's important for alimouv and kids' schools, but it's not the main motivation."

There was an attempted reunion of the group in the late 1980s but Michael Nesmith, who had originally split the band when he bought himself out, declined to join. After recording the new album. Justus, he agreed to play live. Peter Tork, the tall, mop-topped one, said: "We'll be much better than before We mere all eight to exact with before. We were all right to start with, now we're ferociously good."

Crime and punishment

6 The broad proposition that "prison works" is not in question.

Of course prison can work, if it is used with sufficient nuthlessness Deterrence fails only



being caught and imprisoned are not high enough, or because the sentence is not harsh enough ... 🤊

In the second part of a major series, Charles Murray (pictured) - the social commentator who identified the Underclass - argues the case for imprisonment News Review - The

Sunday Times, tomorrow

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Academics find method behind the 'random and impulsive' choices of players

Design of form dictates favourite lottery numbers

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

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ONE of the great mysteries of modern life has been resolved after a four-month investigation by a pair of academics: how people choose their lot-

Until now, the widely held notion has persisted that birthdays, anniversaries, street numbers, ages or superstitions are uppermost in people's minds as they select their six numbers and dream of untold riches. Not so, according to Stephen Salter of Shel-field Hallam University and Professor Neville Topham of Salford University, who have produced a paper on the lottery for the Centre for the Study of Gambling and Com-

mercial Gaining. The dominant influence is associated with the design of the lottery form, which is rational, since one would not expect players to devote much time to choose combinations on a 1 in 14 million random By feeding in data supplied

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by Camelot to a specially constructed mathematical model, they measured the inclination of people to choose. or ignore, numbers one to 49. The most popular numbers among which are 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and several twentysomethings - are clustered near the centre of the lottery ticket. Those with least appeal — including 1, 40, 41 and 45-49

- are towards the edges and "The resulting pattern suggests a fairly random and impulsive approach to lottery playing, as might be anticipated given the high value of time in a harried leisure society and the extremely low probability of choosing correctly the jackpot numbers. The notion that birthdays and hence low num-

The two academics proved that "spatial component" -the layout of the entry form -

bers is an important determi-

nant is inconsistent with the

low propensity value for num-

was the main influence on players. The findings help to explain the freak result when 123 people shared the jackpot one week: all the winning numbers were in the central columns and away from the ticket's extremities.

"We are very confident about the spatial effect and are prepared to argue it all day," Professor Topham said yesterday. "People are rational and know it is nonsense to try to predict the outcome."

is that even if the six most popular numbers happened to be drawn in one week, "this worst-case scenario does not exhaust the prize fund." The research also disclosed that people almost invariably

The good news for Camelot

used the same set of numbers if they had a side bet on the lottery with bookmakers. Betting shop punters can have a wager on the outcome of the Irish Lottery and recently the big bookmakers introduced a game called 49ers, in which they offer fixed odds ranging from 11-2 for guessing one number correctiv. up to 99,999-1 for guessing all six.

The academics say that the tendency for punters to use the same numbers means that the two forms of gambling are complementary. They recommend that side betting should come under lottery laws and believe that more funds would be raised for good causes. are in the bookmakers' favour, with "almost zero" chance of making a loss, the academics argue that some of their profits should go to good causes, with a share for horseracing, whose revenue has been hit by the lottery.

Unfortunately, the learned 30-page treatise casts no light on how to win the lottery. Professor Topham, who has two lines a week, said: "If I continue playing the same numbers, statistically I should win the iackpot -

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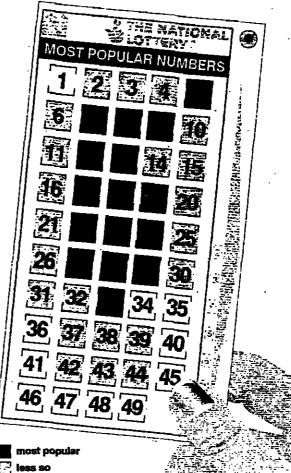
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charged over food poisoning

THE butcher at the centre of the food poisoning outbreak in Scotland that has killed 16 pensioners appeared in court yesterday to face a charge of culpable and reckless conduct.

John Barr is alleged to have supplied cooked meat carry-

instructed the Procurator Fiscal to continue to prepare for a fatal accident inquiry into the deaths in the E. coli 0157 outbreak. The Scottish Office said the inquiry would not take place until the end of any criminal proceedings to avoid any risk of prejudice.

from North Lanarkshire counsioners who have died had attended a church party in Wishaw on November 17.

More than 400 people have

central Scotland. John M. Barr & Son was last year voted Scotland's best butcher.

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Butcher is

ing the E. coli virus from his shop in Wishaw. Mr Barr was committed for further examination and released on bail by Hamilton Sheriff Court. A Scottish Office statement said it was not possible to

predict the date of a trial but public interest demanded that investigations be concluded without delay.

The Lord Advocate has also

Strathclyde Police and envi-ronmental health officials cil are both investigating the

been reported as showing symptoms of the food poisoning bacterium. Several people are still in hospital across

Barr: alleged to have

over fatal c collision The driver of a train which collided with an empty pas-senger service near Watford Junction station was yesterday charged with manslaugh-ter and endangering

Train driver

is charged

passengers.
Peter Afford, 56, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, employed by North London Railways, has been bailed to appear at Watford Magistrates' Court on April 4. He intends to deny the charges. One 70 people were injured in the collision on August 8.

Drug war allies

Britain and Spain are to work more dosely against drug-trafficking. Tom Sackville, a Junior Home Office Minister, said after meeting his counterpart in Madrid. He said the countries had a common interest in thwarting on British smugglers on 🔇 the Costa del Sol.

Libyan ruling

A Crown Court judge has backed a decision by magistrates to deport a Libyan shoplifter arrested 154 times since 1995. Hussein Jazwi, 41. alias Ashley Jones, of South Shields, South Tyneside, claims he will face a firing squad in his bouneland

Parents' jail visit

The parents of Lucy Me-Lauchlan, who is being held in a Saudi jail on a murder charge, are due to see her tomorrow. Stan and Ann Me-Lauchian will travel with members of the family of Deborah Parry, who is also accused of murdering an Australian nurse.

Branson rivals

A Swiss-Belgian team will make its attempt to be the first to fly round the world in a balloon this weekend, just days after Richard Branson's failure. The Breitling Orbiter team of Bertrand Piecard and Wim Verstracten plan to take off today or tomorrow from the Swiss Alps.

Droppings fine

A fast-food company was fined £55,000 at Dublin District Court for preparing bot-dogs on a bread board covered in mouse droppings. Concessions Ireland, owned by the former Irish soccer international Mick Lawlor sells food to spectators at Croke Park Stadium.

Curzon pays up

High Court action against Peter Curzon, beir to Viscount Scarsdale, has been formally dismissed. Mr Curzon, in custody after failing to pay £575,000 to his former wife, Karen, and daughter, Danielle, 13, was freed on Tuesday after he agreed to pay a lesser amount.

Top-price seat

The longest station bench in the world is to be restored, at a cost of £8,000, as part of improvements to Scarborbench, which features ornate cast-iron armrests, was built in the early 1900s. is 456 ft long and can accommodate 228 people.

Jamesons off air

Derek Jameson and his wife Ellen are to leave their late night BBC Radio 2 show. The Jamesons, at the end of March. Mr Jameson, 67, a former Fleet Street editor, said travelling from their home in Brighton to the studios in Glasgow had be-come "a bit much" for them.

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His boat and a finger are gone, but Tony Bullimore may never want for chocolate again

Wave of publicity could improve sailor's cashflow

By ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY, DANIEL McGrory and Adrian Lee

IT WAS fast dawning on Tony Bullimore yesterday that getting shipwrecked was the most fortuitous mistake the elf-confessed wheeler-dealer

Although more seriously injured than first thought - he may lose a finger through frostbite — the 56-year-old lone yachtsman will find himself a valuable commodity by the time he steps onto dry land on Monday. In a global free-for-all, film companies and chocolate manufacturers are promising to make him a

Max Markson, an agent who is Australia's answer to Max Clifford, is among the posse of businessmen waiting for HMAS Adelaide to dock. He confidently predicted yesterday that Mr Bullimore's heroic failure could easily be worth more than EL5 million. Emma Wass, Mr Bulli-

more's official spokeswoman.

Items key to Tony Bullimore's survival - chocolate

bottled water and hammock - are the subject of frenzied

bidding and likely to launch a flotilla of adverts

Butcher is

charged

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whose sports management he was rescued was a cup of company signed him up be-fore he set off, said: "We are loathe to go for it big time on the commercial front. The last thing we want to do is upset the Australian navy, which rescued him, by doing chocolate bar advertisements.

Later in the day, the com-pany swallowed its reservations and contacted every major manufacturer, tantalising them with the prospect that it might have been their brand of chocolate that sustained Mr Bullimore during his four days and nights in the

Also interested were manufacturers of bottled water and companies wanting him to endorse clothing, hammocks and luxury yachts. A tea company yesterday placed an advertisement in a tabloid newspaper on the strength of the news that the first thing

was "overwhelmed by the excitement at home and the offers, but he is more proud of receiving a message from the Mr Bullimore asked for when Queen. He is truly British to Mr Mulvany said that his

Stephen Mulvany,

Bullimore's nephew and busi-

ness partner, had no qualms about cashing in and accepted an offer from Richard

Branson, Britain's other hero-

ic failure of the week, to fly

with the rest of the Bullimore family to Australia.

"He has lost everything," Mr Mulvany said. "That boat

put him in debt. He popped

out of the yacht so quickly because he didn't want the

rescuers to cut it open and he

is distressed that it can't be

salvaged. This is his only

chance to make a few bob so I

told him to go for it." The

Exide Challenger was not

Mr Mulvany said his uncle

main worry was trying to persuade his uncle to stay silent for fear of jeopardising publishing deals. He is so gabby and he is so high he can't shut up but I told him he has to now."

This command came too late to prevent a jubilant Mr Bullimore posing for photographs with the crew who rescued him and the Chief Petty Officer, Peter Wicker, whom he wanted to kiss after he pulled him from the sea. He also revealed how he

was almost killed when he was tempted to leave the safety his boat after wrongly believing that rescue had arrived. "I was terrified because once I dived out I couldn't get

With barely 24 hours of oxygen left he had wondered if



Tony Bullimore gives Chief Petty Officer Peter Wicker a kiss after being rescued. His nephew has since tried to restrain such behaviour

worked out all the possibilities to make the end last as long as

Clean-shaven and rested after the fried breakfast he had requested, Mr Bullimore said he could understand any anger over the cost of his rescue. There is something a little absurd about the tremendous cost of rescuing people who do foolhardy things. I've thought about it very deeply and very traumatically and I don't know whether we've got the right to lean on society, communities or countries to say, 'Well, here we are, come

brother Dave, Wesley Noble, the yacht's designer, and Mr Mulvany are due to fly out today, although the champagne reunion they intend may have to be in a hospital ward. Captain Raydon Gates on the Adelaide said: "Our doctor thinks he will need surgery on the finger severed when he closed the hatch and he may lose his left index finger from frostbite."

Mr Bullimore's movements around the ship were restricted yesterday because of severe frostbite on his feet and the medication he is taking means he has not yet been able to have a celebratory drink. He has made several calls to his

family in Bristol where Mrs Bullimore - who has taken Mr Mulvany's advice and is charging for her many television interviews - said: "We just want to hug him." She wants to be there in time to celebrate his 57th birthday on

Thursday.

Mr Bullimore's family was poised to sign a deal with a daily newspaper and an Australian company was favourite

Phil Jones, deputy managing director of Exide Batteries which sponsored Mr Bullimore's yacht, said the company was still delighted to be associated with the sailor. The

name on the upturned boat beamed round the world. "We have no regrets, other than the trauma that Tony has gone through," Mr

But Mr Bullimore also faces unwelcome attention from creditors when he arrives home. He admits that sailing has taken its toll on his

One creditor, who is suing Mr Bullimore for £40,000 over involvement in the Bingley Hall exhibition centre near Birmingham, said last night: "He is not a hero in my eyes and a good few others.

want that money back now he is coining it in.

Bradkeyne International Limited, a company run by Mr Bullimore, was dissolved in April 1986 with sizeable debts. It was founded in 1983 and set out a list of more than 50 possible sidelines, including wine and spirits, film and record production, caravan dealing, funeral directing, estare agency, private detection

A second company. Bradkeyne International, with the same address and personnel. is still trading.

> Simon Jenkins, page 22 Letters, page 23

ife Is this how life is going to be?

Business Editor

TT'S a recurring nightmare. It won' go away. Every wee

You have just £61 f everything. It's not eve £9 a day. You've give up your car. New clott Holidays. Your pet. ' You don't go out. The heating is mme down. But you still 🖠 can't manage. You. without paying you

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From our Financi Correspondent

Fit's a recurring night it won't go away. Ev You have just £6 everything. It's not £9 a day. You've g

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Jeering mothers drive paedophile off council estate

A CONVICTED paedophile was moved to a secret address under police guard yesterday after demonstrators besieged the hostel where he was

staying.
Alan Christie, 50, with an anorak covering his head, was escorted by two CID officers from his DSS bed-and-breaklast accommodation on a rundown Stirling estate. A cordon of six police officers protected him from the crowd. As he was driven away, lying under a blanket on the back seat of the car, about 50 women chanted: "Beast out, beast

Mr Christie was moved after a 212 hour protest by mothers and grandmothers from the Raploch estate, five miles from Dunblane. They gathered shortly after 9am. irst outside the council's local housing office and then outside the hostel, where they hammered on the door and shouted through the letterbox,



Christie leaving the DSS hostel yesterday

demanding that Christie left. They said that if the authorities did not "get him out today, we will". Police maintained a low profile and moved the crowd back only once. Mr Christie's presence at Raploch had been leaked to the press the previous night after it became known that Stirling District Council had issued a letter to 12 schools in December warning them to be "extra

vigilant" as a paedophile had moved into the area. The man's identity had not been revealed but it later emerged that he was Mr Christie, jailed for a year last April after admitting lewd and libidinous conduct towards a four-yearold girl. He was released in October and lived in Callander before moving to

Stirling, his home town.

He had previously spent !!

years in a psychiatric hospital
after a similar attack in 1965. At his sentencing last year, a forensic clinical psychiatrist said there was a "significant risk" that Mr Christie would strike again as he suffered from "deviant sexual arousal".

Margaret Haney, 54, a mother of eight leading the protest, welcomed Mr Chris-tie's rapid departure but criticised the council for using Raploch as a "dumping ground for weirdos". Linking the case to that of Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane murderer, she said: "They all had suspicions about Hamilton



Margaret Haney, a mother of eight who led the protest, on the doorstep of the hostel where Mr Christie lived

but they didn't act on them. If we don't act, the council will wait until perhaps our children are raped and murdered and our schools shot up, and then they'll say 'Oh, we had a theory about him'. What's the use of that? The council foisted this man on us and did nothing to get him moved. We will be making sure this

doesn't happen again." Yesterday the council met a group of residents to explain why Mr Christie had been housed at Raploch and to inform them that he had been moved at his own request.

Gordon Jeyes, Surling's director of education, said: "The council has a policy of putting the welfare and salety of children first and we had no hesitation in writing to the headteachers making them aware of the situation." After

his release, Mr Christie bound to create fear and alarm and it is difficult to see started a year of treatment ordered by Stirling Sheriff how it assisted parents to do Court. Last night the council anything other than what they refused to say where he was have done," he said.

The Raploch community Alan Miller, chairman of has driven out sex offenders before. Last July, Geoff McAllister, 28, was forced out the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, said that the council's letter to schools displayed by a mob of women after they an unbalanced approach and learnt from a magazine article had served only to provoke a that he had been convicted of a lynch-mob mentality. "It was

Offenders may have to register with police

By Richard Ford

CONVICTED sex offenders will have to register their names and addresses with the police under a Bill published

The Sex Offenders Bill. which ministers hope will be enacted before the election. provides for the names and addresses to be placed on the police national computer. It covers offences including rape; intercourse with a girl under lo: incest by a man; indecent assault; and causing prostitution with a girl under 16. The duration of registra-tion will vary with the sentence given: five years for an adult given a non-custodial sentence and life registration for anyone given a jail term of

Information held will be available only to the police, who will, however, have the discretion to inform schools when a paedophile moves into their area. Under the Police Bill, employers of those with unsupervised access to children will be able to get information about prospective employees.

at least 30 months

Pilots to face breath tests before take-off

By RICHARD FORD

AIRLINE pilots face being breathalysed under government plans to meet new EU

Police officers would have the power to test pilots, air traffic controllers and maintenance crews for drink and drugs. The move comes after concern within the Transport Department that alcohol might be a factor in some

At present, police have no powers to breathalyse a pilot even though it is illegal to fly a plane under the influence of drink. The legal limit for flying will be set at 99 million grams of akohol per 100 milliones of blood compared with the limit of 80 for driving.

Carolyn Evans, technical

lines Pilots' Association, said pilots did not object to tests but were concerned about how they were carried out. "I don't think passenger confidence would be too much enhanced by seeing their pilots blowing in a bag before take-off," she said on Radio 4's The World at One.

The Transport Department conducted by police based at airports but not in aircraft. 🚈 🖫

Irish law loses its seat at the

threatened by planning laws.

For generations, districtcourt judges have travelled to remote botels and halls to hold court and resolve local differences. But on Wednesday Judge Thomas Fitzpat-rick struck out 250 summonses due to be heard at a hotel in Milford, Co Donegal; he was unsure if the court was

100 of the 276 venues used by the court for hearings are not

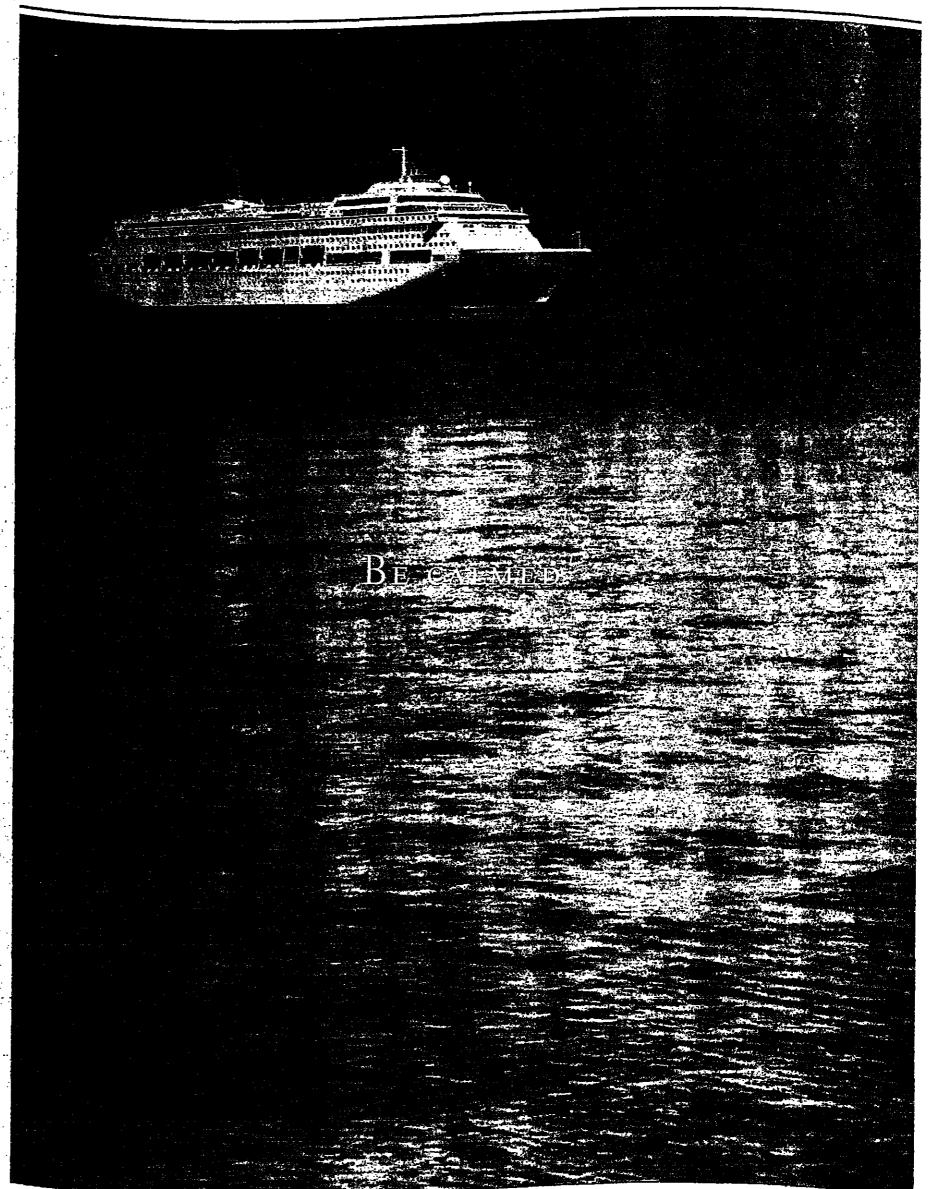
does to sit in official Done

hotel bar THE IRISH tradition of bearing court cases in botels, dance halls and schools is

not have planning permission to hear court cases.

His decision has put in doubt the validity of hundreds of district court sittings about the country. About

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For a brochure, see your local ABTA travel agent or call us at anytime, quoting reference number AA51. 0990 726 726 Penny-pinching mentality prevented the swift rescue of stricken tanker, accident investigators say

Sea Empress insurers are blamed for oil disaster

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

THE penny-pinching of insur-ers turned the grounding of the Sea Empress off the Pembrokeshire coast last year into an environmental disaster, it was claimed yesterday.

A draft report by government accident investigators is said to contain a catalogue of avoidable failures in the attempt to rescue the Liberianregistered tanker in February. They include outdated charts. poor relations between the Milford Haven Port Authority and local pilots and confusion over who was in charge.

The report, leaked to the BBC, claims that insurers refused to sanction more tugs



to pull the stricken tanker off the rocks near the oil terminals at Milford Haven in the first few days of the crisis. They believed that there was

enough pulling power. Yesterday Guy Lindley Ad-ams of the Marine Conservation Society, who has seen the leaked draft, said that avoiding the cost of more tugs had taken precedence over avoiding pollution. "It appears that the first priority when the Sea Empress ran aground was finance. We should never again allow the financial liabilities to cloud the judgment of those seeking to save a stricken and heavily laden tanker."

Mr Lindley Adams said that the effect of having too few tugs was that the pulling power of the rescue operation was about 200 tonnes whereas the striken tanker was pulling back at the equivalent of 800 tonnes. The tanker was just pulling the tugs around."

He urged the Government to introduce the French system There, a government-appoin-



The Sea Empress aground off the Pembrokeshire coast last February. The report claims that using more tugboats could have avoided the loss of almost 70,000 tonnes of oil

formidable powers, including the right to commandeer any tug, ship or navy vessel need-

ed to avert a disaster. The leaked draft document, by the Department of Transport's marine accident investigation branch, identifies failures that it says led to branch, identifies about 70,000 tonnes spilling onto the coastline, harming a wealth of wildlife. If the failures could have been averted, been pulled off the rocks in two days, rather than the six

perhaps of only 2,000 tonnes of oil.

The Department of Transport and the Milford Haven Port Authority refused to comment on the document yester-day. It is understood to claim that rescue amd salvage teams had five different sets of charts on the tides and depths in the estuary. This led to confusion over whether or not the vessel could be pulled off the rocks with so much oil still on board. According to one chart, the

depth in the location where the tanker was holed was 18.3 metres. Another put it at 19 metres. In reality the depth was 21 metres and the tanker could have been pulled off sooner on the rising tide. Sources who have seen the leaked document said yesterday: "Instead of liaising with local pilots, who knew the charts were crap, decisions at

charts. This was confirmed yesterday by Captain lan Evans, a former marine safety adviser in the region, who said that the

captain of a local pilot ship had told the salvage team that the Sea Empress could be off the rocks on the second day. Captain Evans told BBC Breakfast News: The pilot was there advising. His advice was ignored for reasons that beyond my under-

Other failures said to be the port were made on the listed in the report include basis of these out-of-date confusion over whether the Government, in the form of the Transport Secretary, had taken control over the operation in the early days. The

report also says: The standards of training and examination of pilots at Milford Haven are unsatisfactory and in need of improvement."

Rolf Dale of Uni Store-

brand, one of the vessel's

insurers in Oslo would not comment on the allegations but said: "It is always hoped that one learns something from any accident."

The official report is due out within the next two months. Last year an interim report described how the Sea Empress had failed to steer clear

of the rocks in Milford Haven harbour. Although not apportioning blame, the investigators said that the captain and the pilot had not discussed or agreed on a plan for the

vessel's approach. Andrew Smith transport spokesman, said: "It is alarming that the charts for the approaches to Britain's biggest oil port are reported to be inaccurate." He called on the Government to have the accuracy of charts for other ports and busy sealanes checked urgently.

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Policeman demanded sex from prostitutes

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN who had been a promising cricketer with hopes of playing for England was jailed vesterday for threatening prostitute with jail unless they gave him free sex. Adil Ditta. 22, who played for the England Under-19s, lured women into his car before producing his warrant card and demanding sex,

Asian cricketers to sign for Yorkshire, which he later left for Leicester, was jailed for 18 months after he admitted in-decently assaulting one woman and attempting to assault three others. He joined the notice in September 1995 after he broke his arm on a cricket tour of South Africa.

James Goss, for the prosecu-



way trom

Man held over death of Briton > in Antigua

By JOANNA BALE

A DISCHARGED Antiguan policeman with a history of be charged last night with the murder of a retired Lancashire headmistress in the former British colony.

Wilson Adams is accused of killing Gabrielle Stocker, 60, in an apparently motiveless attack on Wednesday on Run-She was allegedly hit over the head with a rock and a pole knife. Locals restrained her attacker until police arrived. 🤳

Mrs Stocker, from Cleveleys, near Blackpool, had been working for Voluntary Service Overseas, teaching chemistry at Antigua State College since August 1995. She retired from Fleetwood County High School in Lancashire in 1994.

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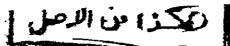
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World population growth slumps for first time in decades

By Niger Hawkes, SCIENCE EDITOR

WORLD population growth is slowing for the first time, excluding the Black Death and the flu epidemic at the end of the Great War, Bill Gould, of Liverpool University told the Geographers Conference.

The number of children born has been falling, a trend that now includes all African countries for the first time, he said. While fertility rates remain well above replacement level and the African population continues to grow at 2 to 3 per cent a year, the figures represent a revolutionary change, he said.

The last estimate of world population — six years ago — stood at 5½ billion. Subsequent censuses, none done later than two years ago, showed little evidence of the slowdown. China, with 1.2 billion people, still tops the league.

The reported fall would

appear to disprove the thesis that childbearing only declines after economic conditions improve, as happened in Europe. In Africa, conditions are not improving but fertility is falling — this is "a crisis-led" transition, he said. "When people feel the pinch, they choose to have smaller families, and now they have the

means. Professor Gould said.
The change had been made possible by the greater availability of contraceptives; more family planning centres; better education of girls and women; and a growing recognition that children cost money. The biggest declines had been a result of government programmes, he said, citing Bangladesh, population 118.7 million, a very poor country where fertility has fallen from seven children per woman in 1970 to about four in

1993. "That is a bit of a miracle" said Professor Gould. "the result of a vigorous government programme of education and provision of mother-andchild health programmes." Equally rapid falls have

been recorded in China, Indonesia (191.3 million), Brazil (199.1 million) and Mexico (84.4 million). East Asia has shown the steepest falls, with fertility now between two and three children per woman. In Africa, Kenya (26.4 million) and Zimbabwe (11.5 million) have had the most pro-

fertility in Nigeria (93.3 million) has remained static at 6.4 children per woman.

If fertility continues to decline at these rates, world population will eventually stabilise without a Malthu-

sian crash, he believes.

nounced results, thanks to pol-

itical commitment. However,



The 1348 Black Death, depicted by R. Cabon Woodville in 1910, which affected world population figures

Mobile phones go global via satellite link

By NICK NUTTALL

MOBILE phone users should soon be able to make calls anywhere in the world with the launch today of the first of 66 satellites forming a new communications around:

ications network.

On board the Delta rocket, which blasts off from California, will be three small spacecraft which will be part of the Iridium network snanning the

globe. When the full network is in place early next year, callers should be able to ring, page or fax home from a mountain-top in the Andes or a tramp steamer on the Yangtze River.

The system has been developed by Motorola, the international electronics firm, with backing from Lockheed Martin Corporation and the Khrunichev State Research Space Center in Moscow. The market is thought

to be worth billions of pounds. Potential users include businessmen, travellers, journalists, and relief agencies.

Iridium works by using a large number of small satellites in a comparatively low orbit of around 750km (470 miles). Conventional satellites which beam television pictures fly as high as 35,000km (22,000 miles) and reaching them requires power beyond existing mobile phones. Iridium requires less

power and the number of satellites means that one should be overhead at any given time.

The call is transmitted to the nearest Iridium satellite, which relays until a satellite is found above the call's final destination. Here the signal is beamed down to the cellular phone or traditional land-line. The phones are expected to cost around \$3,000 (£1,775) and calls around \$3 (£1.78) a minute.

the Iridium network spanning the left in Moscow. The market is thought mobile phones. Iridium requires less around \$3 (£1.78) and calls mobile phones. Iridium requires less around \$3 (£1.78) a minute.



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Quiet faith defeats cynics and snipers

Richard Whitfield

Religious faith, personal belief and integrity are put to the test in the harsher detail of our evolving life stories. Human storylines are, and have always been, the keys to opening up theology. I define theology as the

reflective study of the God of light and of beauty within and with us, but also of the dark and evil in our nature, sometimes referred to as the anti-God or anti-Christ. We have recently been reminded yet again of the first phase of the Christ storyline, announced as good news with the birth of a Saviour, God with us in human form, a perfect love to cast out fear. Soon, Herod launched a futile cull of newborns in response. The anti-God is close by whenever the vulnerable, including children and prophets who will not shut up, are assassinated. Assassination takes many

Assassination takes many forms in our era — in terrorism, in ethnic torture and bloodshed, in random shootings by the deranged and unloved, as in Hungerford, Tasmania and Dunblane, in the murder of modern saints such as Martin Luther King, Archbishop Luwum and Philip Lawrence, and in the tragic self-assassinations of despairing suicide.

There is also character assassination with malicious intent, sometimes sagared with thinly veiled public humour. Anyone even marginally in the public eye can be unfair game in that arena, especially if they stand for anything remotely challenging chical norms. An inch of moral high ground can bring in the excavators to investigate below ground, looking for traces of imperfection or

disloyalty.

The aim is to undermine, credibility and to silence or ridicule what might be a modicum of courage or



Such truth may, of course, have become highlighted firrough its advocate's own moral struggles as much as

their endowed piety.

Those of us engaged in moral debate need to have the courage to sustain poise during such attacks, because of the need for moral resolution in addressing our world's avoidable pain. Enhanced scholarly and scientific insights concerning the human condition are rarely ethically neutral. Knowledge of ourselves as psycho-social beings has moral consequences, even though it is commonplace to ignore them.

ur God in Christ knew about forms of in-life destructive-ness. He experienced the trick questions, herrayal by an insider, and eventually a mock trial and a crown of thorns. Yet he said little or nothing in his defence. His being and ministry challenged the established order. He thus became the target on to punch the psychic shadows of the annogod's within the countring professional religious, the crowd and the civic jurisdiction could be professed.

fairly judged and distorted out of content? The testimony of the prophets, saints and mystics is that persecution, whether large or small can be a growth point for spirituality, a deepening of faith, a consolidation of identify and a strengthen-

ing of integrity.

It seems that there is nothing more motivating than others beastliness to prompt a new examination of one's own shadow. In that dark side, of which Jung wrote so profoundly, lurk fears of personal insolvency and the rage of the clamouring ego which displaces the soul and its untapped connections with others.

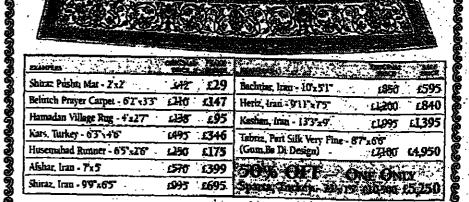
The wronged ego wishes to complain, to fight back, to justify, even to litigate. The maturing soul waits upon God's reassurance through grace that all is well concerning the invisibles. The soul can be reassured by injunctions such as "To thine own (soul) self be true". There is no profit in gaining the whole world if you lose your own soul" and "There, but for God's grace, go I".

Malevolence and ill report are spiritually far more serious for the doer than the receiver. Patient receivers of ill intent discover that the God of the Covenant does not stay afar off when the ego is wounded. The Christ brings light to all things, having shared the wounds in all things.

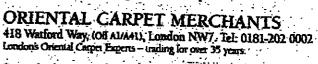
So the ego's pain is displaced as grace and greater truth come riding on the back of misfortune. The result is an inner peace and soul security, a gift we can all claim if we hold fast to that which is good.

El Professor Richard Whitfield is Warden of St George's House Windsor Gostle

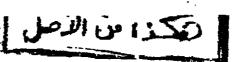




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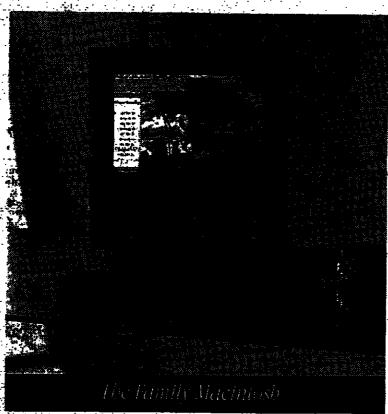
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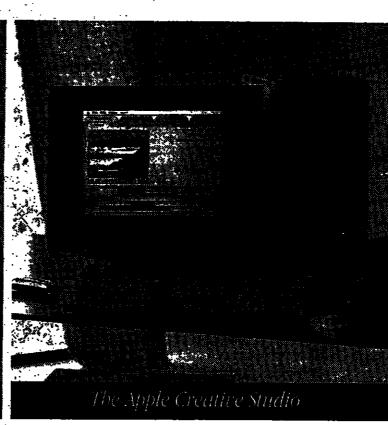
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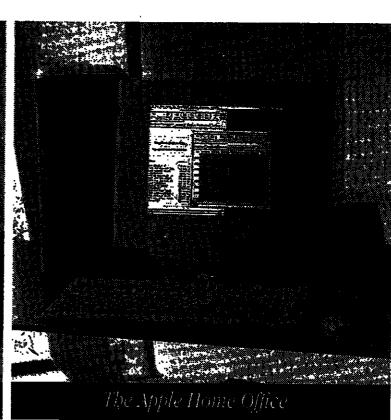
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Ebbing Benidorm establishes a beachhead in Wales

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE shivering citizens of Cardiff and Bellast will soon receive a party of visitors from friendlier climes, bearing tales of pubs well stocked with barrels of lager, sizzling fish and chips and curry — all to be wolfed down under the scorching sun, on golden beaches, to the gentle music of the Mediterranean.

Starting on Tuesday, the "Benidorm Roadshow" will trundle cheerfully for three days through Wales and Northern Ireland. Led by the town's mayor, Vicente Pérez Devesa, and consisting of a number of Benidorm's town councillors, the roadshow will aim to sell the charms of the much-maligned Costa Blanca resort to the as yet unconverted Welsh and Ulsterfolk.

Tourists to Benidorm have so far tended to come from Manchester, Liverpool. Newcastle. Glasgow and London, and the council is keen to attract people from other areas. There was an 11 per cent fall in the number of British tourists to Spain in 1996 - although the fall for Benidorm was only 3 per



The beach at Benidorm on the Costa Blanca. Although it is the summer destination for more than a million Britons, there were 3 per cent fewer British tourists last year

- and the Mayor is determined to arrest the decline with a "top-up" from Cardiff and Belfast.

We want British visitors to keep coming to us," Señor Pérez said. "They love our facilities, our weather and

the way of life we have. They feel totally at home with us and we appreciate their presence very much." Of the four million tourists

pouring into Benidorm last year on streams of charter flights, just over a million

sun, sand and a good time. The place, once a somnolent fishing village of some 3,000 souls, now boasts a skyline which the Michelin Tourist Handbook describes as "an authentic Manbattan of the

Mediterranean". Pubs, bars and chip shops vie with esplanades selling tourist tat. T-shirts and caricature paellas. Visitors used to Cannes may halk at the general tone of the resort, but the the resort, but the

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be in a state of cut-price bliss. At least half of the annual tourist influx is Spanish, clearly unfazed by the spectade of a mini Manchester on-

"Look, let's be fair." says Montse Gaseo, the press

"I know we have been criticised for being hortera [Spanish slang for tacky or naff but not everyone can afford to go to the Côte d'Azure. You must not be clitist. Most people in Britain

chief of Benidorm council.

folk and Benidorm is a normal place with very normal prices. It is a democratic holiday destination for a democratic age. 'Come to democratic Benidorm' will be our roadshow's message." Benidorm's Mayor will

press the flesh on the streets of Cardiff and Belfast, distributing information to those willing to take it. Señora Gasco says: We have many attractions in Benidorm, which the people of Wales and Northern Ireland should appreciate. Apart from our pubs and our beautiful beaches, we have Acqualand, the most important aquatic park in Europe, and Mundomar, a marine theme park. And since the countryside is flat and untaxing, our British visitors can go for long walks."

As if that were not inducement enough, the Mayor will tell people in Cardiff about the Benidorm Sevens, an international rugby tournament to be held in May. There is also an international marathon next November, although he may need more than a mere roadshow to get any takers from among the horizontal Brits on holiday.



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LET'S DO UP BRITAIN!

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Times readers give £60,000 to help charities

By DANIEL McGrory

THE generosity of readers who responded to The Times Christmas appeals will make a huge difference to crucial work this year of the two charities concerned, the Evelina Children's Hospital and Tusk Force. Donations of nearly £60,000 have already

been counted and there is much mail still to open. The charities were chosen because they work with help-less victims — sick children and threatened species — and they need every penny to survive and to thrive. Both are small; precision groups whose work-can-be-sticas

confinedly management.

Tusk Force says it has received more than £25,000 to protect!

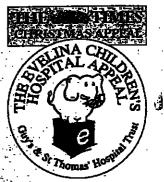
Endangered mammals. Your donations of nearly £30,000 to the Evelina Appeal will help in the pio-neering work with children who come to the hispital suffering from severe neuro logical and heart disorders which need intensive special-

ist treatment

The Evelina Guildren's Hospital, which is the paediatric unit for Guy's Hospital in London, is delighted with the donations, but its need for money remains acute to help more children like Caroline Morris, 15, who was treated there when her kidneys deteriorated and a transplant failed. Caroline's grandparents pro-vided some £8,000 to buy a portable dialysis machine, known to the family as Dillan. with which she is able to stay

with friends and go to parties. Her mother, Penny Morris, lost no time in mounting her own campaign to raise money for more machines to be donated to the Evelina Appeal for families who cannot afford to buy their own. The cost of transforming a young per-son's life is a formidable one. however, and the Evelina Appeal remains permanently

Tusk Force was yesterday deciding ways to spend the





money. Tammy Marler, the head of fundraising, said: "We think it appropriate that we should help to fund projects to protect the endangered British native mammals like the red squirrel, the vole, dormouse and wildcat."

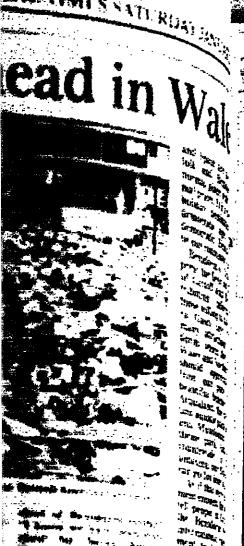
Money will also be spent on educational projects. Tusk Force's international projects and its anti-poaching teams guarding the Siberian tiger. elephants and bears.

☐ Cheques or postal orders for Tusk Force should be made payable to Tusk Force and sent to PO Box 290. Wetherby, Yorks LS23 7XL. To make an instant credit card donation, or for information, phone 0345 414616.

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'Sacking' scandal hits Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A POLITICAL scandal rocked the hothouse world of Hong Kong politics yesterday when Lawrence Leung, the retired immigration director, said he had been dismissed - contradicting repeated government statements that he sought retirement for "personal

The credibility of the Hong Kong Government is now in doubt in what has become a controversial case that appeared central to the integrity of the Hong Kong-China relationship.

In surprise evidence to the Legislative Council, where he appeared under a subpoena, Mr Leung admitted that within hours of the threat to dismiss him he had met Peking's second highest-ranking official in the colony.

Mr Leung gave evidence for four hours yesterday to a Legislative Council select committee formed to investigate allegations that he had given Peking confidential material on inunigration and caused the reliability of Hong Kong residence papers. W.K. Lam, who as Civil Service Secretary heads the civil service, conceded last night at a press conference that he had not told the council that he had considered compulsory retirement for Mr Leung, but he declined to say why. He refused repeatedly to confirm or deny that Chris Patten, the Governor, had been told that Mr Leung, a senior official, was facing disgrace.

Mr Leung said that on July 5 he had been summoned to Mr Lam's office and told he must either retire by 5pm or face compulsory retirement after 31 years of service. Mr Leung said that when he asked why, Mr Lam told him: You know why ... The Government no longer trusts you."

Asked by council members why he had not demanded to see his superiors or lodged an appeal, Mr Leung said: "I knew that for a man of my seniority, dismissal would have to be approved at the highest level, including the Governor or even the UK." He then wrote his retirement letter. As he gave evidence yesterday. Cheung Man-kwong, a council member, entered the chamber and said he had just been told "by a member of the public" that on the day of his retirement Mr Leung had been seen with Chen Zuo'er, China's envoy to the ambassadorial-level Joint Liaison Group conducting negotiations on Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule. Mr Leung then agreed: "I made the appointment with

him after I decided to retire." He then changed his statement, saying the meeting was "pre-arranged". Mr Leung said he had undergone a six-month investigation by the Indepen-

dent Commission against Cor-ruption, and had been

cleared. The conflict of evidence barrassment for the Government. Perjury carries a prison sentence of up to seven years, Mr Patten has said that he had never known any reason why Mr Leung should leave



A drawing in France-Soir depicts the teacher stripped to his socks

French pupils learn the bare essentials

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BERNARD DEFRANCE, a French philosophy teacher, claimed he was expanding his students minds and laying bare the essence of democracy when he stripped naked in front of a mixed high-school class.

The authorities in the town of Meaux, east of Paris, thought differently, and last week he was temporarily stripped of his job, sparking an intellectual debate over the line between philosophy and exhibitionism.

The revealing class took place at Pierre de Coubertin High School, when the 51-year-old teacher told his teenage students he would remove one item of clothing starting with his bow-tie, for every philosophical riddle he could not answer. M Defrance may have taught his pupils too well, for by the end of the class he was left standing in nothing but his socks.

The author of many philosophical works, he insisted that his unorthodox teaching methods were an illustration of the workings of democracy. The point of democracy is to discover that the emperor has no clothes, and that authority is only exercised by the permission of the citizens, who make the laws together," he said. "It is the mission of schools," he

said, "to allow students to experience their liberty in real terms, and not just in the imagination."

Some students applauded the tech-

nique. There was nothing sexual

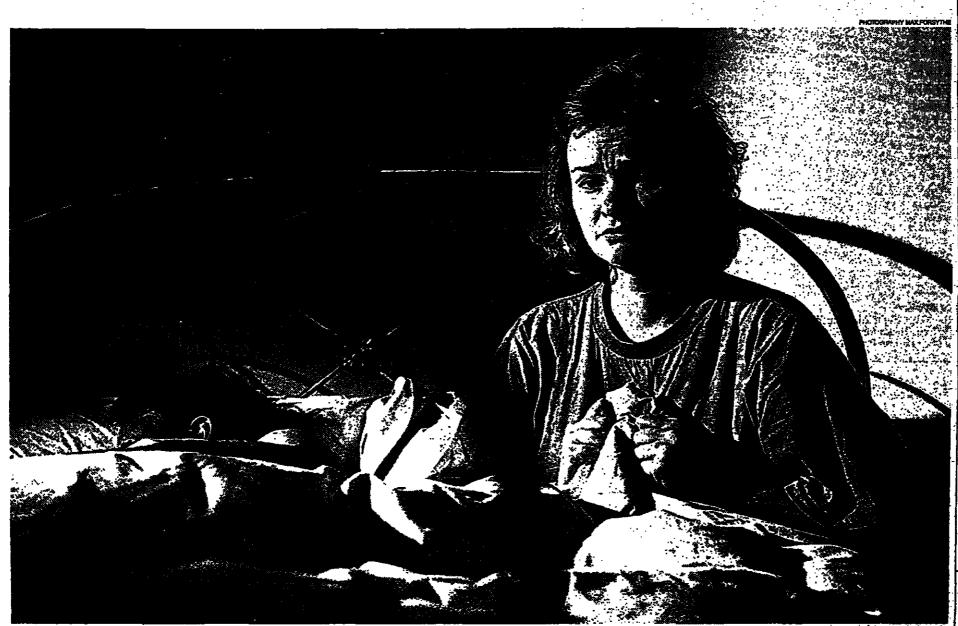
about it. He was showing that he was just like us," one said.

The parents of another pupil filed a complaint with the police. School administrators, after pondering M Defrance's arguments for several weeks, voted to suspend him for four months pending an inquiry. There is a limit beyond which philosophical provocation becomes unacceptable." said Guy Coissard, academic inspector for the Seine-et-Marne region.

In a country that regards philosophy as central to education, the ease has sparked debate. The conservative Le Figaro considered M Defrance's self-revelation "a strange way to teach", while the left-leaning Le Monde quoted Hegel and noted: "From Bernard Defrance's teaching. these adolescents may learn to discov er who they are, to understand that obedience to the law is very different from submitting to someone." Several of the teacher's colleagues

have leapt to his defence. This is a brilliant man, declared Laurent Brisset of the French teacher's union. "It's important that there is someone to say these sorts of things."

M Defrance remains unrepentant "I want to deconstruct the idea of I pupils' submission before the teacher and the institution, to instil an idea of equality... that way I will make students interested in philosophy while also making them respect me.



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Hope rises in Angola as Princess arrives

A FLURRY of diplomatic activity has raised hopes of a peace settlement in Angola ust as Diana: Princess of Wales, is about to visit the country to lend support to

mine-clearing operations.

She will fly to Luanda to back a Red Cross campaign against anti-personnel mines.

After two decades of civil war, an estimated nine million mines lie scattered around the country, about one for every man, woman and child. Angola has one of the world's

She arrives on Monday, soon after the departure of Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, who had talks with President dos Santos and Angolan Government leaders. as well as with officials from Unita, the rebel group that signed the 1994 Lusaka ceasefire agreement.

Korean striker sets fire

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

highest injury rates from mines, with about 24 people a day being admitted to hospital, and thousands of

During her five day visit the Princess will visit a Red Cross factory making artificial limbs, health centres and hospitals caring for the victims of

to himself Seoul: A car worker on strike set fire to himself yesterday to

protest against South Korea's stringent new trade union law

as thousands of workers clashed violently with police. The apparent suicide attempt by Chung Jae-sung, a painter at Hyundai Motors in Ulsan, 185 miles southeast of Seoial, could provoke more protests. Mr Chung, 33, suffered burns to 30 per cent of his body, but his condition was said by doctors not to be serious. Witnesses said he doused himself with "some-

alight during a violent clash with riot police. The operation was among about 20,000 workers from several "Hyundai factories marching through the city centre after a rally protesting against the new law, which they fear threatens their jobs. The legislation, passed on December 26, gives manage ments greater freedom to lay off employees, lengthen work

thing inflammable" and set it

ing hours and hire substitutes. Police fired teargas, leading to violent clashes, the Yonhap news agency said. Workers fought back, throwing stones and small rocks. About 20 workers and police were injured, the agency said. (AP)

Leading article, page 23

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Hope rises in Angola as Princess arrives

'Pale faces' outburst by reporters mars slum tour as Marxist city rolls out the red carpet

Passage to India cheers Major in election year

JOHN MAJOR has been treated to prodigious and generally glowing coverage in the Indian press during his Indiraged journalist said yes-terday: "A lingering problem with most Englishmen is that they still feel they have the right to rule us." right to rule us."

preferential treatment said to have been given to British' reporters — "pale face scribes" - accompanying the Prime Minister on his visit to a Calcutta slum. The Indians complained that they were kept at a distance while the Britans enjoyed unfettered

The reporter, writing in The Pioneer, said that "one of us natives" shouted at Mr Major.

asking why Indian correspondents had been kept out. The Prime Minister smiled benignly" and is said to have answered: "But I am talking to you now." The Times of India was similarly aggrieved, de-claring that Indian journalists were "herded behind a ram-shockle beamber from? The shackle bamboo fence. The Indian Express carried a leading article mocking the Marx-ist rulers of Calcutta for rolling out the red carpet for munists had been in the forefront of "the mindless destruction of all vestiges of

The chattering classes, it said, had sniggered at Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal, over his enthusiastic welcome. The paper carried a

the colonial past".

Upwardly mobile phone partners

THE Prime Minister hailed in Britain and across the the success of BT yesterday after it won a £60 million toehold in the swiftly growing Indian mobile phone market.

Sir Iain Vallance, Chairman of BT, who is among the businessmen travelling with Mr Major on his tour of the sub-continent, flew to Delhi yesterday to complete the deal. Under it, BT will acquire a 22.5 per cent stake in Bharti Cellular by taking over a subsidiary of the French CGE Group, one of four partners in

Bharti has more than 65.000 subscribers, a rapidly expand-ing base, and Sir Iain said last night that India had become a key market for BT. It was the biggest deal announced so far . and he used the news to BT had invested more heavily himit

world and as a result there was a "long stream of future earnings". He said Britain was now the second largest

overseas investor in the world.
Mr Major had lengthy talks
yesterday with H. D. Deve
Gowda, the Indian Prime Minister, both in Calcutta and as they flew together to Bangalore. Mr Major again urged the Indian Government to buy British Hawk jets to replace their ageing military aircraft and raised the plight of the two Britons still held by militants in Kashmir.

Mr` Major was garlanded when he went to the headquarters of Standard Chartered, the bank for which he once worked, to inaugurate its credon Mr Major's six-day trip it card centre. He was given a gold card with his photograph spread the privatisation mession and remarked that he age. Since it was privatised, in had not been told his credit

Mr Basu on his knees to Mr Major.
In a leader headlined "Pas-

age to India". The Times of India praised the Conservatives' approach to India while lambasting Labour's. It accused the Labour Government at the time of partition in 1947 of creating the Kashmir prob-lem. Harold Wilson, the for-mer Prime Minister, had sided with Pakistan in the 1965 cross-border war.

An article in The Hindustan Times suggested that India should be concerned about Mr Major's possible defeat in this year's general election. It praised the Conservatives' approach to Kashmir, comparing it favourably with what it called the Labour Party's en-couragement of lobbies that favoured a plebiscite to deter-mine whether Kashmir should remain part of India.

A Calcutta resident wrote to the editor of *The Statesman* saying it was time to stop fighting the Battle of Plassey [the scene of Robert Clive's victory in Bengal in 1757]. "Not a day passes when we do not come across shrill anti-British rhetoric by our leaders, who find in the East India Company and the British Empire a useful scapegoat to cover up their own follies."

The Telegraph of Calcutta gave breathless coverage to Mr Major's visit beneath the headline: "Major strikes right chord, holds the city in thrall". A sub-heading added: "He came, he saw, he conquered."

It reported that Norma Major was a hit; many slumdwellers had been impressed by the "memsahib". A front-page article said: "There was cricket fever, film fever, football fever and now there is a Major fever." It noted that this was the first visit to Calcutta by a serving British Prime

Last night Mr Major flew into Dhaka for talks with the



مُحَدّا مِن الأصل

John Major and his wife Norma at the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta yesterday

Battle joined over 'loan' of Governor Hastings portrait

THE British and Indian authorities are at odds over the ownership of a valuable 18thcentury oil painting, it emerged here yesterday.

Diplomacy forbade the strange case of the missing portrait being mentioned in Calcutta yesterday when the Prime Minister and Norma Major visited the Victoria Memorial Hall with its myriad relics of Britain's imperial history. But, behind the scenes, a battle is under way over Britain's refusal to hand back a 250-year-old picture by Lemuel Abbot of Warren Hastings, British India's first Governor-General.

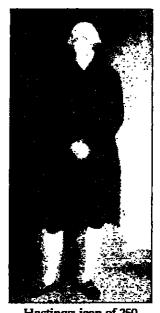
Lord Curzon, a former viceroy, brought the painting to the memorial hall from the National Portrait Gallery in 1920. There it stayed for decades, but in 1987 the state run hall lent it to Britain for two years to hang in the official residence of the High Commissioner in Delhi.

Now British officials are refusing to return it on the ground that it belongs to the United Kingdom. Mr Major was told of the dispute yesterday by Sir David Gore-Booth, the High Commissioner. Sir David was quoted in The Telegraph of Calcutta as saying: True, there was an question that has now arisen who owns the painting. Negotiations are on with the memorial authorities."

Those authorities, however, say that the negotiations are merely about the painting's return. Amid hints of court action by the hall authorities to get it back, the National Portrait Gallery has interwas not given but lent. The dispute was kept well

under wraps as Mr Major toured the hall yesterday. looking at exhibits such as a statue of Queen Victoria and a large painting of the young Edward VII riding into Delh on an elephant. Yesterday Mr Major had

some news about how Britain intends to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Indian independence this year. There will be a visit of the Royal Shake speare Company to several Indian cities and an exhibition in Delhi and Bombay of 150 world treasures from the unrivalled collections of the British Museum. But they are



Hastings: icon of 250

TV saga heralds Deng demise

FROM JAMES PRINGLE

A TWELVE-PART television series on Deng Xiaoping, 92, Peking's senior leader, ends tomorrow, prompting some Chinese to believe that the eulogy is designed to prepare the 1.2 billion population for his impending demise. Mr Deng, the architect of

was reportedly taken seriously ill at the new year. The series was screened from January 1.

"It may be a signal to us that Deng's days are drawing to a close, a woman teacher said. A lawyer in his thirties said: Deng's image had been de-clining ... he is no longer a threat to those who will succeed him." A foreign analyst

some political purpose in showing it now. The leadership needs a smooth transition.

The party under President Jiang Zemin, Mr Deng's heir apparent, will have to manage the post-Deng era, deal with Hong Kong, reverting to Chinese rule in July, and face a key October congress.

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Angel and

of the Park

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

JonBenet Ramsey: precocious performer with talent for pleasing on stage

Girl's killing stuns Americans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

مكذا من الأصا

THE murder of a six-year-old beauty queen in Colorado has put the gaudy world of children's glamour pageants under scrutiny

JonBenet Ramsey, daughter of prosperous parents in Boulder, Colorado, was found dead in the cellar of her family home on December 26. She had been sexually assaulted, struck on the head, bound and gagged, and patholo-gists estimated that the crime was committed the previous evening hours after an excited JonBenet had opened her Christmas presents.

JonBenet was a precocious little girl who regularly won prizes in local and national junior beauty contests. She was America's Little Royal Miss of 1996, and appeared to be a natural on stage where, at the urging of adults, she would wiggle her slim hips, wink her unnaturally luxuriant eyelashes and pout her painted lips. Police are treading carefully,

partly owing to the devastating nature of the case, but also because the killing has attracted reporters from around the world to peaceful Boulder. It was the mountain city's first killing of 1996, and law enforcers are anxious that no mistakes are made. Equally cautious, the dead girl's parents have hired individual lawyers for themselves and are granting limited assistance to investigators, Jon-Benet's father is John Bennett Ramsey, a prominent Boulder

businessman and former US Navv pilot. The girl's name was a purposeful derivation of his. Her mother, Patricia, is herself a former beauty queen who had worked hard to coach her young daughter in the ways of beauty contests.

Children's beauty pageants are a flourishing subculture in provincial America, with parents often spending thousands of dollars to push forward their offspring. Youngsters are clothed and painted to resemble grown-ups, and children as young as two are encouraged to adopt provocative poses. The constant aim is to conquer that most natural of young states:



Patsy Ramsey was Miss West Virginia in 1977

shyness. For the parents there is the pleasure, say some critics, of living their lives through their children. The mystery of JonBenet's death deepened this week with disclo-

sures that a truncated emergency call to the police was made from the Ramsey home a few days before Christmas. The call was interrupted before any words were spoken, but the family has claimed that it was made by a drunken reveller at

the Ramseys' Christmas party.
Police also discovered in the house a rough draft of an apparent hostage note. The Ramseys' home is large and

well-appointed, recently improved by \$700,000 (£410,000) of building work which was done by numerous contractors. Many of them will have met JonBenet and may have had access to the windowless cellar where she was to be found dead and where, only hours earlier, Mr and Mrs Ramsey had hidden the Christmas presents they had bought for JonBenet and her brother Burke, nine.

The Ramseys have offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the "killer on the loose" they claim is roaming Boulder, but city authorities deny that there is such a person at large. Mr Ramsey, well-spoken and a pillar of the community, has pronounced himself "nauseated bevond belief" at subtle intimations that he or his wife may somehow be linked to the death of JonBenet.



JonBenet posing with her brother Burke

Ex-aide says he ran US for Clinton

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ACCORDING to Dick Morris, he wrote President Clinton's State of the Union address, told him where to take his bolidays and steered him in making the world a

The now-disgraced White House adviser, who resigned in August after it was revealed he allowed a prostitute to listen to his conversations with the President, has published a idiosyncratic portrait of the workings of the White House which puts the author at

helping Mr Clinton to rehabilitate himself after the first two, hazard-prone years of the presidency and the Republican landslide in the 1994 congressional elections. Although he had been exiled from the White House by the

tions, the campaign strategy bore clear signs of his touch. But critics dispute his influence was as pervasive as be

At the start of Behind the Oval Office: Winning the Presidency in the Nineties, to be published on Wednesday but widely trailed this week. Mr Morris apologises to his wife, who is seeking a divorce, and to others for his ego.
"Having won a struggle with
the White House to help the President get back on course, I entre stage.

Mr Morris is credited with

There is little sign in his account that this feeling has

> He quotes Richard Holbrooke, America's forceful Bosnia negotiator, as telling him that without his help "I would never have been able to get it done". The Washington Post, which reviewed an early

diminished.

comments: "Morris takes credit for just about everything except tracking down the Unabomber".

Despite the inescapability of Mr Morris's ego in the text, he offers insights into the Clinton image machine. Among many



other small touches, he advised the President to take "regular-guy" holidays camping or hiking with his family. Mr Morris played a big part in weaning Mr Clinton away from the Hollywood friends who had been such a feature of the early years of the presidency, but who were thought to add an unwholesome, untrustworthy element to the White House image in the eyes of

Middle America. Mr Morris is entertaining, if not newsworthy, on the President's tantrums. He describes Mr Clinton screaming that Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate. was an "evil, evil man". He derisively referred to his staff. whom he picked for their youth and freshness, as "the children who got me elected". To Mt Morris himself, the

screamed: "I will do this race alone, alone, alone if I have to", ordering aides not to leak his policies to earn themselves

credit with journalists. Mr Morris has done his best to disobey that order, and has reportedly been paid a multimillion dollar advance by Random House for doing so. But the sniffy reaction of the Post, diligent supplier of the main market for Mr Morris's work, suggests he has failed to glean much credit. "There are no smoking guns here", the paper concludes.

Gingrich 'plot' caught on tape

By Bronwen Maddox

A SECRET tape recording of a conversation between Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Republican leaders, which emerged yesterday, suggested that he may have breached a promise to the committee investigating him for ethical misconduct not to use his office to counterattack

its findings. Disclosure of the tape adds fuel to speculation among Republicans and Democrats that Mr Gingrich, who was narrowly re-elected this week, may not see out his two-year

term. The House is due to vote on January 21 on Mr Gingrich's punishment. The tape was made in Florida by people who overheard on a police scanner a

cellular telephone call be-

tween Mr Gingrich and other House leaders. It was passed to The New York Times. which described the tape's owners as "people unsympathetic to Mr Gingrich".

The Speaker's promise to the committee on December 21 was part of a pact to spare The committee is investigating whether Mr Gingrich misused tax-exempt charitable donations for political purposes. He has admitted giving misleading information to the House and failing to get proper legal advice about the use of tax-exempt funds.

But on the same day as striking this agreement, according to the tape, Mr Gingrich held a telephone conference call in which he sketched out a damage-control statement for Republican leaders to deliver in response to the

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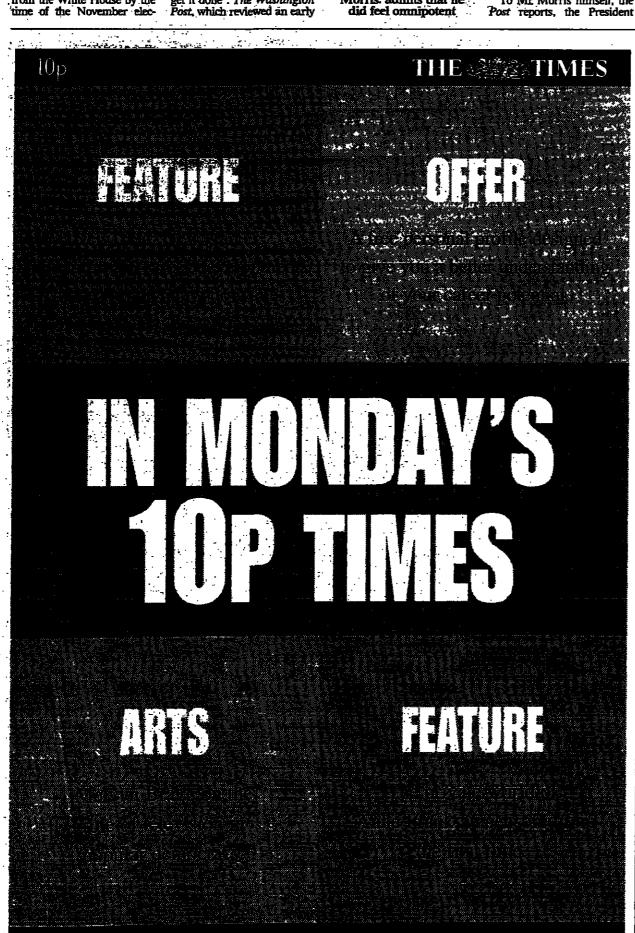




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Disciplined line for Euro bank pleases Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE'S future central the Germans and its mark- blow to the French approach, tough German-style approach to ensuring the purity of the single currency, setting the scene for further tension between Bonn and its partners over the implications of fostering a rock-hard euro.

The European Monetary Institute (EMI), which will become the European Central Bank, steward of the future euro, claimed yesterday at a Frankfurt press conference that its policy machinery would ensure the currency was at least as stable as the German mark.

The Germans were well satisfied with the report by the EMI. although it leaves open several key decisions. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister. said the blueprint demonstrated that "price stability and solid finances are the unavoidable pillars of a successful monetary union". Fighting inflation is the top task for the bank under the Maastricht treaty, but conflict has been growing between Bonn and Paris over what France sees as the risk that the independent bank will pursue monetary strength with the single-minded zeal of the Bundesbank. now dictating Europe's inter-

President Chirac has upset

fund her luxury lifestyle.

Tirana: Nexhmije Hoxha, widow of the

Albanian Stalinist dictator, Enver

Hoxha, left jail yesterday looking

dignified and unscathed after serving

five years for embezzling state cash to

The 76-year-old embraced her two

sons and nephew who met her at the

During her husband's iron rule in

Europe's poorest and most isolated

state, his relatives held senior posts and

enjoyed privileges of which ordinary Albanians could only dream. Hoxha ruled for four decades until his death in

April 1985. A popular uprising toppled

Albanian communism in December

1990. His widow was arrested a year

later and sentenced in 1993 for misap-

propriating state funds and abuse of

gates of Tirana's top-security prison.

bank yesterday laid down a zone neighbours by leading a campaign for an economic council to balance the monetary drive by the central bank. This stirs German fears of

political interference in interest-rate decisions that would bring a softer currency. While German public opinion is growing ever more worried about losing the mark to a weaker currency, pressure is rising in France for a euro that could be exchanged at a lower rate against the dollar, thus boosting European exports. Since most of the technical

preparations are now complete, the policy quarrel is likely to dominate the run-up this year to the choice of single currency members early in 1998. The currency will be

Alexandre Lamfalussy, the EMI president, was at pains vesterday to insist that the new bank would not be a copy of the Bundesbank. "We have not taken over any model from any one country." he said.

Among big strategy choices left open by the EMI were the targets to use to ensure price stability. It narrowed the options to two: the monetary supply, as practised by the Bundeshank, or inflation rates, the approach favoured by the Bank of England. In a

Albanian ruler's widow freed

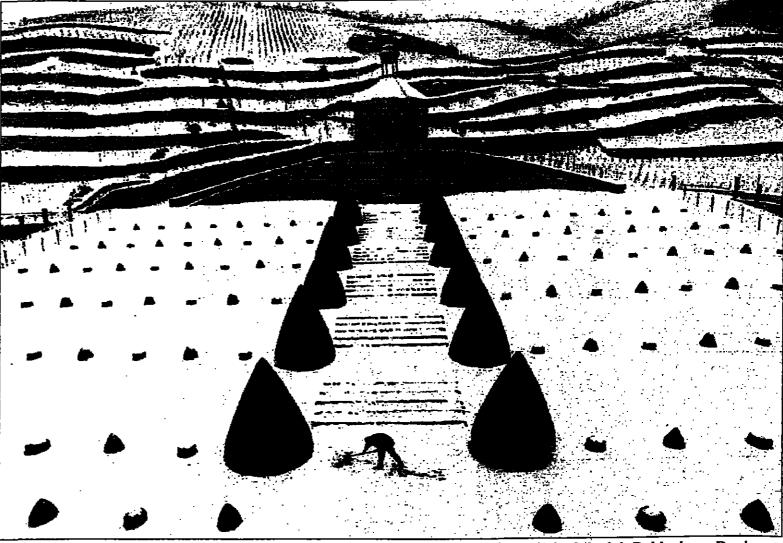
it ruled out the use of exchange rates as a target, saving this could interfere with the fight against inflation. Also discarded were exchange-rate targeting, interest-rate pegging, and nominal income targeting.

Market experts welcomed the EMI plans as the basis for sound monetary policy but noted that the central bank would need true independence from political interference. The euro had to be at least as stable as the current German mark, M Lamfalussy told the news conference. The open question - still

not answered by the EMI - is how far the central bank has to resemble the Bundesbank to reach that goal. The final strategic decision

will be made by the new bank next year, though the EMI said it intended to issue a comprehensive document outlining the pros and cons.

There was some quiet triumphalism in the air yesterday as the institute presented its report. The Single Monetary Policy in Stage Three. This claimed that technical preparations for the euro were well on track. The banknotes were displayed before Christmas. Now it was time for the tools available to the bank to



Snow brings a surreal look to the baroque terraced gardens, and the vineyards beyond them, at Wackerbarth Castle in Radebeul, near Dresden

Outcry at condoms for pupils

Rome: The headmistress of a Turin school yesterday de-fended her decision to distribute condoms to pupils despite vociferous criticism from the Vatican and the local Catholic hierarchy (Richard Owen

Maria Luisa Vighi Miletto, principal of the Giordano Bruno High School, said the onslaught on the condom policy by L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, was "an attack on my professional . . . sincerity".

Distribution of condoms, intended to counteract teenage pregnancies as well as Aids and other sexually contracted diseases, is due to start at the school next month. Pupils at the school said

they were surprised by the "media fuss" and regarded the move as commonsense. But some parents have withdrawn their children.

Wine chemical 'fights cancer'

By Quentin Letts in new york and Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

RED-WINE drinkers may wish to raise a glass to resveratrol, if they can wrap their loosened tongues around the word. A natural chemical of that name, in grape skins, has been found to prevent

Scientists from universities in Chicago and Madrid dosed cancerous rats with the chemical and concluded that it is one of the best natural anti-cancer agents yet discovered. It appears to block an enzyme which leads to the disease. It is hoped that the research could lead to diet supplements based on resveratrol which people could take to reduce their risks

An alternative might be to drink enormous quantities of wine. However, oenophiles should note that to achieve the same dosages of resveratrol as given to the laboratory mice they would need to down five gallons of red wine a day. The best source of resvera-

of cancer.

trol is wine made from the cholesterol and reduce the risk Pinot Noir grape such as Côtes de Nuits and Côtes de Beaune. A cheap bottle is even better than a fine Chateauneuf du Pape. Ageing tends to deplete the wine of its health-giving properties. Levels are higher in wines produced in damp, cool, mould-prone climates,

account for the "French paradox" - that the wine loving, fatty food-eating inhabitants of the Perigord region live long, healthy lives. Resveratrol was discovered in 1924 and identified in

of blood clots. Some scientists believe that flavenoids can

6 A cheap bottle is better than a fine vintage as ageing tends to deplete wine of its health-giving properties 9

such as France, than in the drier regions of California and Australia. Even white and rosé wines, from which grape skins are taken at an earlier stage in production, contain

appreciable amounts. The chemical is a flavenoid. one of a group of substances that give wine its colour and flavour, and which also lower

grapes in 1974. Research published in yesterday's issue of Science detailed its apparent ability to block the malignant work of carcinogens. Resvera-trol, according to test results, stopped the propagation of turnous and made caricerous cells revert to normal...

John Pezzuto, of the University of Illinois, a senior scien-

tist in the research team, said: "Of all the plants we have tested, this one has the greatest promise. My hope is that one day we will be taking a dietary supplement as a cancer preventative, just like many people now

Resveratrol is also found in nuts, certain tree roots and mulberries, among other fruits. It has been used as a remedy in the Far East for centuries, extracted from Japanese knotweed and lilies.

John Foits, a cancer research scientist at the Univerity of Wisconsin School of Medicine, described the resveratrol research as "an important step forward" but said: "I do not think we should recommend that people eat a lot of grapes to prevent cancer, but the overall message is that fruits and vegetables are very useful against the disease."

Leading article, page 23

Macular .

acular

This winter, kids go free to Disneyland, Paris

Nexhmije Hoxha leaves prison in Tirana

yesterday. She was met by her two sons



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Manque programme et en actes colla-en e legația în Castimentera selo care at participation (hereafted Parti Aristis just tiev meetis on ervist. Jaid hood ad un mit the lark time to Distribut Paris, or an American Fagur a Transi Server lefter, and एक में इन नामहिल्ला देंच कार्या का स्ट Archive to Diver Villey and have spers, in well is an experiment. Pro tree to extend for inside ra, "one drawle is the sale! have a free posts of you and year (amily as the Three Park, men ngo line Dearnized Parts (offer mag-

Magique programme. especially designed for Cardmembers visiting Disneyland Paris.

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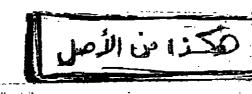




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المُكذا من الدُصل



Turkish ministers warn Cyprus to scrap missile deal

TURKEY renewed its threat yesterday to launch preemptive strikes against Cyprus if it goes ahead with its ourchase of Russian S300 surface-to-air missiles.

THE SAN ROLL

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister, told a news conference in Ankara: "If they are deployed, we will do whatever we have to and if that means they need to be hit, they will be hit."

Nicholas Burns, spokesman for the American State Department, earlier criticised as wild and dramatic a threat by the Turkish Defence Minister to respond to the missile purchase in the same way the United States threatened Cuba in 1962, by imposing a blockade on the island.

Kofi Anan, Secretary-Gen-eral of the United Nations, urged the two countries to show maximum restraint and said that the UN Charter forbids the use of force in such

Much of America's anxiety

arises from an inability to second guess the Turkish Government, Jed by Necmettin Erbakan, the pro-Islamic Prime Minister. "He is not a man who owes us any favours," one US government official said.

For Mr Erbakan, Cyprus's missile threat poses two im-mediate challenges: his first big foreign policy issue will



Tension threatens new move to reunite island

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Cyprus Government yesterday shrugged off threats of Turkish military action if it did not drop plans to buy Russian anti-aircraft missiles, insisting that it would continue its arms build-up despite a chorus of international disapproval.

Greek Cypriot officials also maintained that Turkey's bellicose reaction had been encouraged by London and Washington because they had sharply criticised Cyprus's de-cision to sign the missile contract last weekend.

The Turkish threats show a blatant disregard for interYiannakis Cassoulides, the Cyprus government spokes-man, said. "Our defence programme will continue undeterred by these threats." He added that the Government's mam focus of attention would still be on solving the longrunning Cyprus problem through diplomatic means.

But diplomats said that the missile deal had come at "the worst possible time" by increasing tension when a drive by Britain and the United States to reunite the island is expected before Cyprus begins accession talks with the European Union

also test his ability to cooperate with Turkey's traditional Western allies. Mr Erbakan was a member of the troops to Cyprus in 1974. He has protested publicly, during his long years in opposition, that Ankara was wrong at the time not to have taken the entire island.

Abdullah Gul, the Turkish Government spokesman and a trusted Erbakan aide, has warned the Greek Cypriot Government that its decision to deploy missiles capable of hitting the southern coast of Turkey was tantamount to war. Mr Gul is a moderate in the ruling Welfare Party government coalition. But he warned the Greek Cypriots that "if Turkey makes up its mind, they won't be safe even with an atomic bomb".

With more than 60 million Turks and fewer than a million Greek Cypriots, few doubt Ankara's ability to issue such a threat. But Western diplomats in the Turkish capital emphasise that Mr Er-bakan is capable of pragmatism and is unlikely to seek conflict for its own sake. The greater concern is that Mrs Ciller, whose True Path Party is the junior partner in the coalition, will latch on to the Cyprus issue to distract attention from domestic scandals that implicate her party and that may reach her.

Her hawkish pronounce ments yesterday appear to contradict the tactful line advised by her own ministry. "She is acting more as a spokeswoman for the army," Sedat Sertoglu, foreign editor of the newspaper Sabah said.

That interpretation echoes the biggest fears of Washington, that it has lost influence with its principal ally in Ankara, the Turkish military. The two had enjoyed a special relationship at the height of the Cold War.

Revived Polish cavalry stirs a nation



A squadron of lancers will bring pride to Nato, Roger Boyes writes

POLAND has started a recruiting drive for an elite cavalry unit in a move that is stirring memories of hopeless mounted charges against German tanks and dashing lancers in the service of Napoleon.

Strapping youths, between 5ft 9in and 6ft tall, are queueing to join the new squadron which is supposed to generate pride in the army on the eve of joining Nato. The Western alliance will soon have a handy new formation on its eastern frontiers," a Western diplomat said drily. "No fuel bills and sensitive to the environment." About 100 cavalrymen should be trained in time for a parade on

August 15 to mark the Polish victory over the Bolsheviks in 1920. On that occasion - which is sure to irritate Moscow - the troopers will don the prewar uniform of four-cornered caps. high boots and purple shoulder

The cavalry tradition in Poland closely follows the history of the country's aristocracy. Mounted officers were almost always drawn from noble families and their mess dinners resembled country house gatherings: good chels served food on silver, family retainers were drafted into the regiment and many officers were related to each other. For ordinary troopers enlisting in the cavalry was a form of social mobility.

The communist regime was suspicious of this elitist enclave and promptly abolished the cavalry. Even now, Roman Jagielski, the Deputy Prime Minister and appointed chairman of the Association of the Cavalry Squadron of the Polish Republic, has to reassure Poles that the cavalry will be recruited from every social class. At least some of the old spirit of

the lancers (known as Uhlans) was kept alive by the noncommunist version of the Polish Boy Scout movement which nassed on regimental songs and traditions. Most Polish schoolchildren have grown up with tales of battlefield daring, even if teachers under communism tended to play down the victory and emphasise the foolhardiness of the men on

The Polish cavalry under the command of Jan Sobieski saved Vienna from the Turks in 1683 — a victory that ensured the wholehearted approval of cavalrymen by the Roman Catholic Church for the best part of another three centuries.

The last great cavalry battles were fought against the Russians in 1920, but the image that has stuck is of the stubborn cavalry charges against invading German anks in September 1939. General Rudnicki, in his 1974 memoirs Last of the Warhorses, recalls several battles waged by the 9th Lancers against Panzer units. Some tanks were immobilised. but chiefly the cavalry succeeded in slowing the pace of the German

invasion. The emotional connection of the Polish cavalry with their doomed mounts emerges clearly in the general account of the German bombardment of Warsaw in late September, 1939, "Red glittering flames illuminated our horses . . a few of them were lying dead.

Kowalski's horse Cenzor was still alive, lying with its bowels ripped out. Not so long ago he had won the army's Challenge Cup in Tarnopol ... the next day somebody needing to still his own hunger would cut out a joint from

Crowd attacks parliament

By Our Foreign Staff

press demands for early elections. They smashed furniture and equipment and set a room

Firefighters extinguished the blaze and police used fear-gas to prevent the protesters from seizing the building. The crowd had broken through police cordons and smashed windows to gain entry. The police blocked entrances to like parliamentary chamber but

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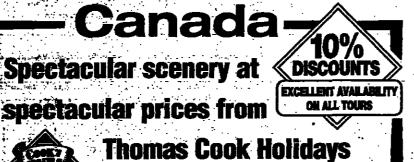
HUNDREDS of people at the crowd smashed furniture more than 50,000 after dark. tacked the Bulgarian parlia- and computers in several of- The Government has presided ment in Sofia yesterday to fices. Police sources said ten over a chaotic economy and officers were hurt. A antiterrorist squad arrived to bol-ster the police presence.

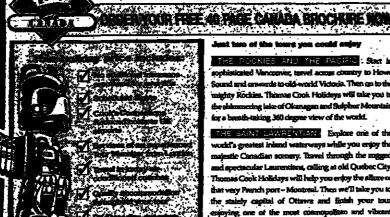
Amid the steach of tearpas. the besieged parliament, where the Socialists have a majority, voted against holding an extraordinary debate on an opposition-sponsored "salvation declaration" which would lead to early parliamentary elections. The crowd was reported to have grown to

collapsing currency this year and more than half the urban population is facing food shortages. The mafia is as bad as anywhere in Eastern Europe, with a stranglehold over the viable parts of the economy.

A European Union emergency aid programme is planned to start early next month, when serious bread shortages are predicted.







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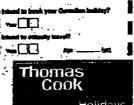
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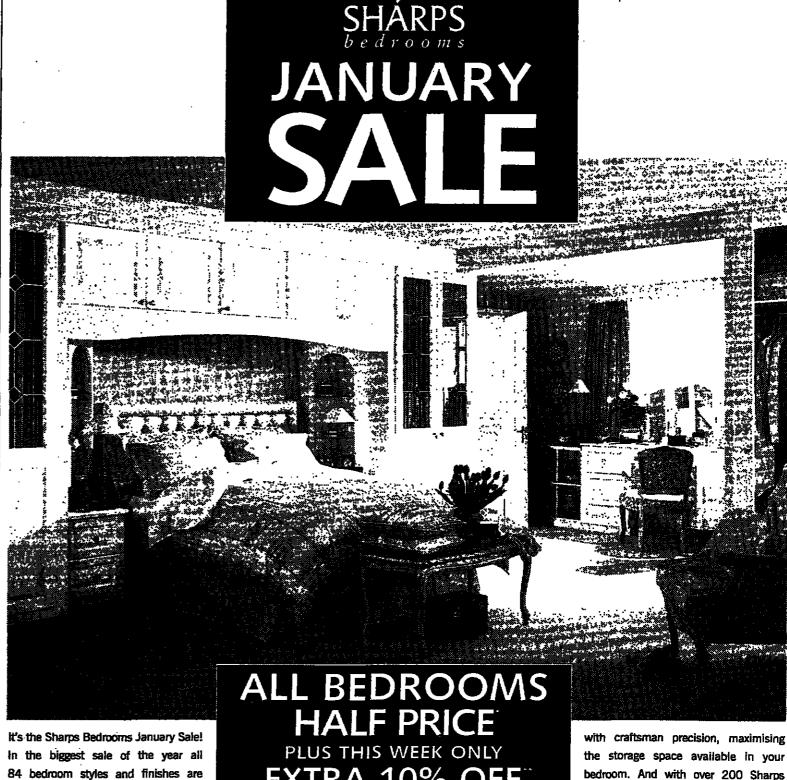
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DAYS • MONDAY - SATURDAY 9.30-5.30 SUNDAY 10.00-4.00

Spanish Eurosceptic tells 'genuinely democratic' Britain to go it alone outside monetary union

Viva the bulldog spirit

AS A new year's exercise, readers might try to guess which sabre-toothed Eurosceptic wrote the following: "When debating the euro, economic analysis usually counts for

nothing. Monetary union is peddled as a political nostrum to cure all ailments. I sometimes think that the Common Market should not have been founded in Rome but in Vienna, on

Dr Freud's couch. "The Germans want the union to stop them from falling into Nazi ways. The French want to be cured of an inferiority complex. The

MADRID FILE by TUNKU VAŘADARAJAN

The Spaniards want to bury Franco. The Portuguese want to be French. The Greeks do not want to be Turks. Etc."

Who is the author? Is it (a) John Redwood; (b) Bill Cash; (c) Woodrow Wyatt; or (d) William Rees-Mogg? The surprise answer is none them, but rather Pedro Schwartz. Spain's leading right-

Royalties end loyalties

AS IF to assure the British monarchy that they are not the only ones to have to tolerate the attentions of self-styled "royal experts", a Span-ish writer, Jaime Peñafiel, has just published a graceless book on Crown Prince Felipe of Spain.

Called And Who Will Save the Prince?, it follows his two previous books on the Queen and King of Spain, entitled God Save the Queen, and May God Also Save

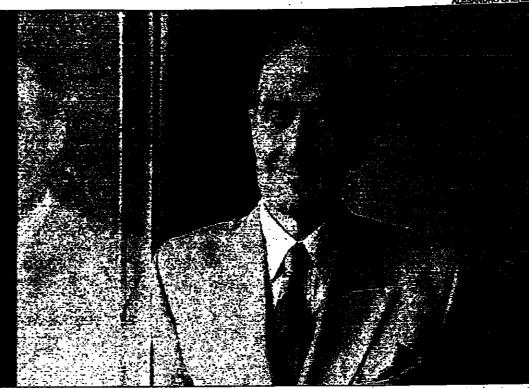
the King. The author, a columnist with the newspaper El Mundo, was on the founding team of Hola magazine. enjoying privileged ac-cess to the Spanish Royal Family. Yet as the royal household, with time, wisely put some distance between itself and Señor Peñafiel, he metamorphosed from enthusiastic monarchist to extremely sour ex-monarchist. "And will God save Peñafiel?". wags now ask.

smallest and most exotic tribe in a that has grown fat on handouts from Brussels that of the euroescépticos. The President of

Fundesco - a thinktank that studies the effects on society of information technology he is forthright in the manner of a Tory backbencher, although clearly rather more of an intellectual. Detested on the Spanish Left, his weekly column in El Pais seldom fails to raise the hackles of Socialists and communists.

Politically liberal ("in the Thatcherite sense"), he lays into Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France with undisguised gusto. The two of them are endangering Europe by pressing ahead with their project without carrying public opinion with them. They are building a monster which has French centralism for a head and iron Prussian discipline for a body. When I see Kohl and Chirac together. I quake in my boots." As a "self-respecting Spaniard", Señor Schwartz "rejects the Franco-German attempt to foist a federa-

tion and a single currency on proud



Pedro Schwartz "The Common Market should have been founded on Dr Freud's couch"

nation states". He is convinced. also, that Britain should "go it alone" if monetary union is finally achieved. He says: "Which country in Europe is genuinely democratic? Britain, Which is the one European state which is truly linked to North America, now the centre of Western civilisation? Again, Britain. Every other country is rootless, with politicians who hate their nation's past and want to be transformed into something else. Why should Britain share in such a project?" As for Spain, Señor Schwartz is scathing. "After all these years of

Franco, it now wants to be with the big boys ... but Spain's uncritical keenness, paradoxically, means that the big boys will never treat it as anything other than a whipper-snapper. That is the sad truth.

Euro lies?, page 22

Backhand volley for Aznar

JOSÉ MARÍA AZNAR, the conservative Prime Minister, has been accused by a Spanish news magazine of accepting an unusual gift from an even more unusual source.

In its latest issue, El Siglo. alleges that Senor Aznar has had a glass fibre "paddle-tennis" court installed at his official La Mondoa residence in Madrid, a present from the son of Placido Domingo, the opera singer. He is also called Plácido, and is a sports

goods manufacturer. The Prime Minister is an obsessive aficionado of the fast-growing sport — a form of tennis that is played with short-handled racquets and has had gentle games in the past against the portly

According to El Siglo, since Plácido Jr has publicly expressed the intention of selling paddle-tennis courts in Spain, Señor Aznar should not have accepted the gift. The Prime Minister's critics have called the revelations an

Kremlin doctor tells terrible patient Yeltsin to obey orders

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN may be discharged from hospital as early as next week, but he will not be able to resume his full duties at the Kremlin until said yesterday.

Dr Sergei Mironov, the chief Kremlin physician, said the President's pneumonia had been brought on partly by his refusal to return to hospital for medical care.

"He should have been brought here a few days earlier and we proposed this." he said, confirming Mr Yeltsin's reputation as a terrible patient always pressing to be discharged from hospital.

"I understand him as a person, but as a doctor I have another position." he said. "Of course I cannot say Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] feels comfortable spiritually. Of

The COPERATIVE BANK

of course his mood is not a very happy one, but I see no

reason for pessimism." Although the Russian leader should be able to hold some meetings as early as next week, he will not be able to resume work at the Kremlin for another three weeks.

The announcement means

that several important meetings and visits will have to be postponed or cancelled, including a summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States leaders, which has been put off to the end of the month. Meetings with the British, French and Dutch leaders, scheduled for the coming weeks, are also in doubt.

More important is the impression given that the work of the all-powerful presidency will once again be confined to the few hours each week when the Russian leader can meet

officials and sign documents from his sickbed.

Dr Mironov hinted strongly that henceforth the Kremlin medical team will have a much greater say on the President's work schedule, in particular his foreign trips, when his health is most at

The image of the ailing leader unable to perform his duties has prompted fresh comparisons with the final years of Leonid Brezhnev's tenure at the Kremlin, when the elderly Soviet leader could barely function.

Russia's stocks appeared to have recovered their confi-dence, despite midweek jitters caused by fears that the Presi-dent's poor health could destabilise the country's economy. However, the Russian press did not share the confi-

Crash trio walk on sea to safety

Copenhagen: The unusually cold winter proved a boon to three people whose plane went down in the North Sea - because there was enough ice to enable them to walk gingerly to safety.

The plane landed about two

miles off Hoejer, near the German border, on Thursday afternoon after its engine stopped. It slowly broke through the ice forcing pilot Kirstine Mortensen, who is four months pregnant, and her passengers to climb out. As the long Nordic night settled in, the three began making their way across ice floes, reaching land about seven hours after the crash, Ms Mortensen told a Danish

television station yesterday. The plane had sent an SOS but it was not picked up because it was flying too low. The three have been discharged from hospital. (AP)

The COPERATIVE BANK

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Hamas urges suicide attack

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THOUSANDS of Islamic control of Yassir Arafat, the militants in the autonomous West Bank city of Nablus yesterday staged a rally and demanded another "big at-President of the Palestinian Authority. tack" against Jewish targets as part of their continuing campaign to sabotage the 1993 peace deal between Israel and

Organisation.
The 15,000 extremists were using the start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan to commemorate the first anniversary of the assassination Ayyash, the chief bombmaker of Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement. Yesterday's call to violence came less than 24 hours after two pipe bombs rocked the centre of Tel Aviv.

the Palestine Liberation

wounding 13 people.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has vowed to respond with severity" if the attackers are found

Jerusalem: The Palestinians.

jackers, yesterday launched

Walker writes).

On the stage in a Nablus sports stadium, a 15st drawing of Ayyash - known to Arabs as "the Engineer" - stood flanked by two rifles. The murdered man's grandfather

maker's three-year-old son, for the crowd who chanted: "We want a big attack."
The Mossad killing of Ayyash last January was the trigger for four revenge suicide bombings in February and March which cost more than 60 lives. Hamas has threatened more attacks to

held up Bara, the bomb-

Ahmed Haj Ali, the Hamas leader, vowed to target the 145,000 Jewish settlers now living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Their point of weakness is security, he told

mark the anniversary.

the crowd, who regard Ayyash Palestinians' flying start

looked tired after making the overland journey to the Egyp-

for years known as the world's most notorious hitian port from Gaza. "It is the dream of my life their own national airline come true," said Jamal al-Hawa, a Palestinian pilot with a maiden flight carrying pilgrims from Port Said to trained in former Yugoslavia who flew one of the two

Saudi Arabia (Christopher Many Palestinians en Within minutes of each route to Mecca had to go by other, the entire fleet of road through Egypt and take a ferry to Saudi Arabia. The Palestinian Airlines - two Dutch-made Fokker 50 aircraft — took off carrying a total of 95 passengers, who two-hour flight cuts out the

strength is our faith in paradise." There were fears in-Israeli security circles that the rally could signal a new round of suicide attacks.

These have been halted since last March by a combination of effective security and an unwillingness by Hamas to take action that might derail continuing, talks, aimed at securing an Israeli troop withdrawal from the holy West Bank city of Hebron.

Although these talks have run into major difficulties. Dennis Ross, the US special envoy, told Israeli officials yesterday that he would stay. in the region over the weekend in a continuing bid to break the stalemate.

This centres on deep differences between Israel and the Palestinians over the date of future Israeli troop withdrawals in the West Bank due to follow its handover of 80 per The escalating tension between Israel and the Palestinwas reflected in 70,000 Palestinian worshippers attended noon prayers in the compound of al-Aqsa mosque in the occupied east-

In his sermon broadcast live to Muslims around the world, Sheikh Hamed Beitawi, a leading Hamas figure, sharply denounced Mr Netanyahu's Government. "Israel is beating the drums of war and aggression against Muslims and Islam." he told the faithful at the outset of a month of

fasting. Similar anti-Israeli sentiments were voiced in Jordan, which signed a peace pact with Israel in 1994. About 2.500 Jordanians took part in Muslim prayers outside Amman's first Israeli trade fair as part of continuing protests



A Palestinian crew waiting to take off yesterday

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OPINION

English National Opera's decision to quit the Coliseum deserves reasoned debate, not instant scorn



THEATRE I

The Russian clown Slava Polunin serves up a visual feast in Snowshow at the Peacock

THE



■ THEATRE 2

.. while the Gate offers much heavier fare: three late "chamber plays" by Strindberg



MUSIC

Baton to watch: the fast-rising conductor Antonio Pappano steers the LSO through a memorable night

Those of us who are veteran organisers of kiddies' birth-day parties — and proudly carry the scars to prove it — know that the one game you always avoid is musical chairs. First, it ruins the carpet. Secondly, letting small children run round in circles after feeding them jelly has unpredictable consequences. Thirdly, as the chairs are removed there are

by tantrums and then thuggery. Why was I reminded of such merry scenes this week? Well, the wacky world of subsidised arts has been like a game of musical chairs recently, hasn't it? On the groaning table are billions of pounds, kindly donated by Uncle Lottery. And rushing round like demented toddlers - barging their way to the biggest piles of loot - are the bosses of London's culture palaces. One by one, they grab their seats and tear open the gift-wrapped parcels. To the Royal Opera House, £78 million! To Sadler's Wells, £30m! The Tate Bankside



inevitably tears, closely followed

Lottery backlash has floored ENO the National Theatre £32m, the Albert Hall £40m, the Royal Court Elom, the Globe El2m, Kew Gar-

Then the music stops. Dotty old Grandpa Public-Opinion has sud-denly woken up. He has taken one horrified look at the greedy brats scrabbling round his dining room. and ripped the gramophone out of its socket. The game's over. All the seats are occupied . . and just one sad little figure is left wandering round, morose and empty-handed.

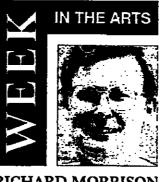
Yes, step forward, English National Opera. This week, months after everybody else, it launched its bid for big lottery bucks. It wants to quit the London Coliseum and build a new theatre. The reaction has been extraordinary. If ENO had announced a complete season of Bulgarian operettas it would not gets £50m, Wembley Stadium have provoked greater hostility.

The London Evening Standard fearless in its calls for a billion quid to be poured down the drain of the Millennium Exhibition denounced ENO's plan as profligate in an editorial mysteriously printed before ENO had an-nounced its plan. David Mellor, frothing attractively at the mouth, accused ENO of committing "an outrageous breach of faith", a phrase which the first Mrs Mellor may have found grimly amusing.

Paul Barker told his readers that

the Coliseum needs little more

than a "lick of paint". And The independent's arts correspondent revealed her solution to the Coliseum's acute backstage problems: ENO, she explained, should expand by buying an adjacent block of flats and chucking the tenants out. Sadiy, she sniffed, this is an option which ENO "has not fully explored".



Indeed not. The late President Ceausescu organised his townplanning much better, didn't he? And so the sheeplike chorus of baas and boos went on. If you need evidence that the tide of punditry

has turned against London as a recipient of lottery largesse, or against opera houses - or, indeed, against the arts in general receiving any more massive awards then this week's coverage provides it. The bonanza is over. ENO's bad luck is to arrive too late at the trough. All the grub has been gobbled. The pigs have flown. Yet ENO has a right to know

one thing. Leaving aside the matter of its poor timing, are its arguments for ditching the Coliseum valid? On this question nobody who has viewed the theatre's perilous backstage tangle of Edwardian pulleys and planks has any doubt. There may be a good case for ENO not building a new opera house, and instead touring the country, focusing on new work, nurturing young British singers, wooling young audiences, and operating out of a smaller Sadler's Wells comes to mind. But there is no case at all for condemning it to perpetual decline in the crumbling Coli. One could compare the theatre's machinery

to Fleet Street presses before the

arrival of new technology, but that

would belittle the avant-garde

qualities of hot metal. To expect a

modern opera company, changing its repertoire four times a week, to "patch up" this muddle is mad. ere's another curious aspect to this mess. What does the Arts Council think about it? Does the Arts Council think? As usual, we have no idea. Does it support the notion two opera companies in London, equally funded, compet-

ing in identical repertoire with

identical styles of staging? We don't know. Does it think that a

new opera house, say on the South Bank, is viable? It won't say. Does it believe there is still a need for opera sung in English? Er, no comment. And don't quote us.

The Arts Council will not even admit that it has been informally discussing ENO's plans with the company for months. It looked on benignly as ENO articulated its hopeless dream in 300 pages of painstaking detail (spending £1.4 million of the Arts Council's lottery allocation in the process). Then, at the first hint of trouble, the Arts Council's noble chairman and officers just melted away, leaving ENO to face the flak alone.

As so often, the Arts Council has displayed no strategy, no leadership, no backbone. The lottery offered a wonderful opportunity to sort out London's overlapping and near-bankrupt operatic life. In-stead, the big questions have constantly been fudged, dodged and fumbled. And ENO, the most affectionately regarded opera company in Britain, has been be-trayed. It's a sad start to 1997.

THEATRE: Slava Polunin brings his buffoonery to London; a Strindberg marathon worth the effort; and Frankenstein revisited

Clowning with bluebottle

year-old buffoon who wears a baggy yellow baby suit, red hedgehogs on his feet and 4ft arrows. through his abdomen. Appearances, as any fool will tell you, can be deceiving. Having hosted his own television show for 16 years on the Soviet network Polunin is as popular in Russia as Sid Caesar is in

> Snowshow Peacock Theatre

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the States. Without having to open his mouth, however, he is infinitely more funny and, as is the way with clowns, infinitely more melancholy. More Godot, I suspect, than

When we first see him he has a noose around his neck on a seemingly endless piece of rope. When he finally hauls discover Angela de Castro's panda eyed clown on a noose at the other end.

Their mutual surprise flowers into a disgruntled mimetic relationship. Where Polumin leads, Castro in her ludicrous Deputy Davig outlit tries to

Predictably Polunin, an undoubted control freak, has all the ideas. Against a throbbing electronic soundtrack, his sketches slide suggestively into each other like pieces of performance art. Lying on a burst of stage smoke later and metal bed frame, smoking a the scene is strangely trans-



Snowshow is "a supremely childish and delightful visual feast" from the Russian television star, Slava Polunin

pipe, he is suddenly bemused by the sight of a shark fin circling the stage. He discovers a woman stage right, wrapped in Cellophane like an Interflora bouquet. He tries to put her feet in a tiny vase. A burst of stage smoke later and formed into a hunting ground for a stilted monster.

But for all Polunin's bewitching art, it is the giant setpieces that sell this show. Sweeping with his broom, his sleeve gets caught on a spider's web that unravels into an enormous spun-cotton drag-

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net. As he staggers down one of the aisles, the web, with a lot of willing help from the audience, miraculously flows over the stalls. When Polunin clambers back on stage a bluebottle the width of the proscenium crash-lands on his head - the inspired

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Despite its theatrical brilliance. Snowshow makes no great theatrical demands. It is a delightful visual feast with the emotional stamina of a Punch and Judy show. It is supremely childish. But I suspect the real reason we will always welcome Polunin is because he looks like a customised version of Bill Murray in Ground Hog Day destined to tramp the theatrical fringes with his spectacular illusions and madprofessor hairstyle for eter-

squashed by the ridiculous

JAMES

THERE were times during this four-hour voyage when I felt like a critical *Trianic* after a collision with a big Strind-Paranoia berg. I also admit that only by shoving my Biro into my thigh past and did I successfully resist the invitation inherent in Agate's present dictum that "sleep is a form of criticism". But I am not being disingenuous when I say that the trip was worth it. In any The Chamber Plays case, the three late, late Strind-

Gate, WII

swings unpredictably from

the Student, the Dead Man. hopes of getting the insurance.

Both plays end in what's meant to be a spirit of acceptance and resignation: but you may find the Strindbergian feelings of grievance and (at times) paranoia more eloquent, at least in Wils Wilson and Loveday Ingram's admirably plain, unpretentious productions. But it is Georgina Van

the cynical and angry to the resigned; but by Strindberg's standards these plays are not especially mad.

In Storm John Grillo's aging Man discovers that the violent musician living above him is his ex-wife's second husband, and their supposed child is really Man's. In After the Fire, Dudley Sutton's Stranger is the long-lost brother (or maybe that brother's ghost) of the Master-Dyer who persecuted him as a child. stole his inheritance and has now fired the ancestral home of their corrupt family in

Welie's revival of The Ghost Sonata that is the pick of the proceedings, for, despite a religiose ending, it does justice to a seldom-performed masterpiece. Here, the elegant Alan MacNaughtan is the power-mad Hummel, who comes to destroy the fake 'Colonel" who has married his ex-fiancée and unwittingly accepted Hummel's daughter as his own. With Diana Fairfax as a woman who has spent 20 years crouched in a corner screeching like a parrot. Gra-

ham Kent as a vampire cook

with a hatchet, and other

oddballs on the periphery, it

offers a picture of domestic

hell. Very weird, very imagi-

reservation aside and enior

John Link's smooth produc-

tion, on an artfully spare set

native, very Strindberg.

BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE**

A monster of a novelist

PLAYS about famous dead artists often tumble into bathos when celebrated incidents or encounters have to be introduced. The dialogue tries to be conversational - "See here, Michelangelo, I'm the Pope and I want that ceiling finished now!" - but some-

berg plays in the programme

are mostly being presented in

pairs rather than trios. Look

for Storm and The Ghost

Sonata, or After the Fire and

The Ghost Sonata; but don't

Strindberg wrote his "cham-ber plays" in 1907, five years

before his death, for the Inti-

mate Theatre he founded in

Stockholm. Although each is

shortish, and was designed for

a small space, they all have

large casts peopled by generic-

sounding characters: the Milkmaid, the Confectioner,

And in each someone visits a

house oddly marooned be-

tween the real and symbolic,

where he faces out a still-

troubling past. The mood

miss Ghost Sonata itself.

how it doesn't convince. Liz Lochhead avoided such traps in the play she wrote ten years ago about Mary Shelley's creation of Frankenstein. She is a poet herself, which must have helped to get the tone right, and although one can imagine the play performed on radio without loss of clarity, it holds the stage as a clever and touching account of Mary's prickly solemnity and the odd circumstances surrounding her famous book. I had not noticed that the name she gives

Blood and Ice New End, NW3

to the child killed by the unnamed monster is that of her own little boy.

Shelley, Byron, the unfortu-nate maid Elise, and Claire Clairmont are the other living characters — the last nicely described in the programme as "Mary's stepsister and millstone" - but there is also the Creature himself, no Boris Karloff but as handsome as Shelley. He addresses Mary as Frankenstein, which in a sense she is, but although Lockhead develops parallels between what Mary wrote and how she lived the two strands don't adhere to make a convincing argument. However, you can put this

by Douglas Heap where the actors are dressed in shades of brown, fawn and cream. All six, recently out of drama school, give precise, nuanced performances auguring well for their futures. The interplay is excellent, where Molly Gaisford's grave and clear-

sighted Mary must deal with the hopelessly self-deceived Claire (Poppy Hill). or the boyishly impassioned Shelley of Justin Trefgame distances himself from Luke Shaw's ironic Byron.

Amanda Morely and Luke de Lacey play the other characters, victims both, although one of them has the consolation of immortality.

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World beaters

THE young British-born, American-trained conductor Antonio Pappano has been hitting the headlines for some time with outstanding performances in the pit and on the podium. Thursday's concert. opening the London Symphony Orchestra's spring season, marked his debut with that orchestra, and a memorable encounter it proved.

Pappano's posture and stick technique may look awkward. but he gets the results. So long did he sustain the suppressed pianissimo excitement at the start of Smetana's Bartered Bride overture that the tension became well nigh unbearable. The explosions, when they came, were all the more potent, and the knife-edge precision of the strings, hurtling by at top speed, had to be heard to be believed.

The phrasing of the slow introduction of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony was slightly too well-manicured to be convincing, but thereafter Pappano's judgment was irreproachable. The main theme of the Allegro was so gracefully executed that every return was a delight, while woodwind counterpoints curled round it seductively. The lilting rhythms of the thirdmovement waltz ensured that it really danced, while the swirling orchestration of the finale built to an impassioned climax. High woodwind cries

CONCERT

LSO/Pappano Barbican

can be made to tear through the texture more remorselessly, but Pappano's well-balanced, admirably calibrated account succeeded perfectly in its own terms.

Top marks to Pappano, too, for taming the notorious LSO brass. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard scores ruined by macho brass sections - this orchestra is an arch-offender, but the problem is a global one - allowed to oblicerate important detail. Under Pappano's direction the brass dominated only when called to do so. This was the LSO once again on worldbeating form.

Jan Smaczny's programme note told of a legend that Dvořák preferred his Violin Concerto to that for cello. Posterity has reversed that assessment, and with good reason. Yet Maxim Vengerov is better equipped than most to win new admirers for the former, bringing warm lyricism, finely crafted phrasing and immaculate technique to bear in his performance.

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BONHAMS

Man is born free — and in chains for his own good

Conor Cruise O'Brien on Burke,

Jefferson, Rousseau and the IRA

The Long Affair: Thomas Jefferson and the French Revolution made the point that in commenting on Jefferson, I also had Northern Ireland in mind. I was surprised by this point as I had not been conscious of making any such connection. On reflection. however, I find that the connection does indeed exist. It arises from what Jefferson wrote about France and Britain.

One of Jefferson's most enduring fantasies, which continued throughout the ten-year duration of the French Revolution, hinged on a wish that the French revolutionaries would conquer Britain. In one letter, dated February 23, 1798. Jefferson replies to a correspondent who had apparently expressed some qualms about Jefferson's rejoicing in the thought of the subjugation of the British by French revolutionary armies.

Jefferson wrote: The subjugation of England would indeed be a

general calamity. But happily it is impossible. Should it end in her only being republicanised, I know not on what principle a pure republican of our country could lament it . . . I do not indeed wish to see any nation have a form of government forced on them. but if it is to be done. I should rejoice at its being a freer one."

They may not be subjugated, but if the government forced upon them is "a freer one", Jefferson would rejoice. The concept that people might and should be "forced to be free" originated with Rousseau in Du Contrat Social. Jefferson never acknowledged any intellectual or moral debt to Rousseau, but the debt is evident in the peremptory paradox.

And it is in this paradox that the link with Northern Ireland today comes in. As shown in every general election for more than 100 years, a majority of the population in the area now known as Northern Ireland wish to remain in the United Kingdom. But this wish has never been acceptable to Irish nationalists, who make up a major-ity in the island as a whole. Some Irish nationalists, in the IRA, are using force to bring to Northern Ireland a version of freedom which a majority of the people of Northern ireiano are known to reject. Ir short, these people are to be forced

The idea of forcing other people to be free, as the enforcer conceives of freedom for these people, has been around for more than 200 years. It was one of the guiding principles of the French Revolution. in its expansionist phrases. Those in each country who wished to embrace the French Revolution might be only a small minority, but they were the only people who

Most Belgians did not want to become part of the French Revolution. But what most Belgians wanted did not matter for such an ardent champion of the French Revolution as Jules Michelet, Michelet neatly divided the population of Belgium into two groups: those who wanted to be part of France (and therefore free) and those who did not. The former were les vrais

Belges, the latter les faux Belges. It didn't matter what the faise Belgians thought or felt about anything; it was only what the true Belgians thought and felt that counted. As for the false Belgians. who didn't actually want the freedom that France was offering them. must be forced to be free.

Modern Irish nationalists do not possess the Cartesian clarity and intellectual daring of the great Michelet. These nationalists do not actually say that the Protestants of Northern Ireland are "false Irishmen" who must be forced to be free. But that is the general idea behind

reviewer of my recent book the Irish nationalists' drive, especially in its manic form, as cher-

ished and practised by the IRA.

The neatest deflation of Rousseau's peremptory style and manner of thinking is in a phrase by Faguet Faguet quotes Rousseau's famous phrase "Man is born free, but everywhere is found enslaved and in chains", and comments: "It would be equally correct to say that sheep are born carnivorous and

everywhere eat grass."

Edmund Burke intensely disliked the mode of thinking and the forms of eloquence that are common to Rousseau and Jefferson: the striking, confident generalisations, the cult of freedom as an absolute. Burke stresses limits, cautious against the charms of the peremptory and of the overbearing.

The following passage from On Conciliation with America (1775) is

My hold of the colonies is in the close affection which grows from common names, from kindred blood, from similar privileges and equal protection. These are ties which, though light as air, are as strong as links of iron. Let the colonies always keep the idea of their civil rights associated with your government, they will cling and grapple to you and no force under Heaven will be of power to tear them from their allegiance. But let it be once understood that your government may be one thing and their privileges another, that these two things exist without any initial relation - the cement is gone, the cohesion is loosened, and everything hastens to decay and dissolution.

As it duly did. Burke hated Rousseau - more than he hated anybody else, I think, except Warren Hastings — and has a splendid denunciation of him in his Letter to a Member of the National Assembly (1791). Rousseau, he says, was led "to exhaust the stores of his powerful rhetoric in the expression of universal benevolence, while his heart was incapable of harbouring one spark of common parental affection". He cites Rousseau's abandonment of all his five children to the lound! soon as born, and adds the marvellous comment: The bear loves, licks and forms her young; but bears are not philosophers.

uriously (and sadly, as I think), Burke left us no equivalent comment on Thomas Jefferson, Indeed, he left us no comment at all on Jefferson. although Jefferson, during the last years of Burke's life, was as fierce a friend of the French Revolution as Burke was an enemy. Burke knew from Tom Paine of Jefferson's support for the French Revolution. but did not comment. He always denied the continuity of the French Revolution with the American one. but ignored Jefferson's assertion of

that continuity. Burke ignored Jefferson, but Jefferson did not ignore Burke. On receiving Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France. Jefferson immediately decided that Burke's attack on the French Revolution showed that his support for the American Revolution had been hypocritical: "How mortifying that this evidence of the rottenness of his mind must oblige us now to ascribe to wicked motives those actions of his life which wore the mask of virtue and patriotism."

Burke probably never learnt of this wild attack, but if he had he would almost certainly have ignored it. His enemies in Britain were saying the same sort of thing - though less wildly - and these were the attacks he found it necessary to

The Referendum Party's advertisement is an absurd distortion of history, says John Campbell

I you are going to accuse others of deceit it is wise to be honest yourself. But the Referendum Party's advertisement in yester-Party's advertisement in yester-day's newspapers claiming to offer "chilling proof" that Ted Heath and others "lied to us on Europe" is itself misleading. The evidence presented, a letter to Heath from "Britain's Lord Chancellor" spell-ing out the constitutional implica-tions of British entry into the Community proves no such thing. Community, proves no such thing.

First, the letter reproduced is not. as was implied, written by Heath's Lord Chancellor (that is Lord Hailsham of Marylebone) around 1970, but ten years earlier in December 1960, by Harold Macmillan's Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmuir, when Heath was no more than Lord Privy Seal charged with testing the water for a possible application. The Cabinet did not even decide to apply to join until the following July. The letter was evidently a response to a request from Heath for legal advice and formed part of the normal process of consultation before the Government made its decision.

So the letter is not, as is suggested, a sensational discovery. It has been sitting in the Public Record Office since 1991. Nor is the content in the least surprising. It is precisely the sort of advice you would expect the Government's

Did Heath deceive Britain over Europe?

It simply demonstrates that the Macmillan Government - and, one must assume, all subsequent governments, Conservative and Labour, which pursued and eventually achieved membership of the Community — were perfectly aware of the constitutional implications. The Referendum Party is trying to revive the allegation that those governments were not as frank as they might have been in sharing those implications with the electorate. But that is an old argument to which Kilmuir's letter adds nothing at all.

Since the party has now made available the complete letter more than is legible in the advertisement — it is possible to see it as an admirably clear assessment of the implications of signing the Treaty of Rome. I must emphasise," Kilmuir writes, "that in my view the surrenders of

to persuade Parliament or the public to accept them."

He goes on: "I am sure that it would be a great mistake to underestimate the force of the objections to them. But these objections ought to be brought out into the open now because, if we attempt to gloss over them at this stage, those who are opposed to the whole idea of our ioining the Community will certainly seize on them with more damaging effect later on."

This was certaintly a warning which Heath, his colleagues and

successors might have done well to heed. They are all of them — including Margaret Thatcher in signing the Single European Act — open to the charge that in their anxiety to win support for what seemed to them at the time an urgent national interest they laid insufficient emphasis on the future development of the Community. But that does not

legal adviser to give before a major constitutional departure. It is certainly not proof of deceit.

sovereignty involved are serious begin to justify the charge of lying ones and I think that, as a matter or the practical politics, it will not be easy stressing the immediate benefits. over the distant costs - scarcely an unusual oversight in politicians.

But Heath never disguised that his conception of Europe was a political community or denied that it would involve some progressive pooling of sovereignty: he was scornful of those who saw sovereignty as something to be hoarded in the national cellar, to be inspected periodically and put away again. If he, Roy Jenkins and the other leading pro-Marketeers in both parties did not spell out all the details, that was because no one could tell exactly how the Community would evolve: the important thing was to be in it, so as to be able

o influence its evolution. In fact, an astonishingly ambitious programme was laid down in 1972. In Paris that October — three months before Britain actually joined - Heath, Pompidou and Brandt agreed to press on with

economic and monetary union by the end of the decade. The 1973 oil crisis made nonsense of that timetable; but the point is that hardly a murmur of opposition was raised at the time. No one could claim at the time of the 1975 referendum that the goal of monetary union had not been spelt out.

In 1960 when Kilmuir wrote his letter, and still in 1973 when Heath led Britain into Europe, the governments of the day considered the implications of some loss of sovereignty and judged it worthwhile Enoch Powell was a member of Macmillan's Government which applied in 1961, and did not reverse his support for membership till 1968; Thatcher was in Heath's Cabinet, and did not turn against

further integration until 1988. The difference is that a generation ago we were not so frightened. We still considered ourselves a great power: we talked of "leading" Europe, just as Germany today is willing to trade national sovereignty for influence in a larger entity. The Referendum Party's fear of Europe, which leads to such hysterical distortions as yesterday's advertisement, is simply a measure of the decline of British confidence.

Dr John Campbell is the author of Edward Heath (Pimlico). He is currently writing a biography of Margaret

Why the best of us still dare

The British crave danger — but expect others to be risk-averse

o doubt of the heroes of this week. Tony Bulli-more and Richard Branson have ventured, and failed in style. They have performed the task that the British expect of their 20th-century adventurers. They have taken on the world, the world has given them a bloody nose and they have responded with courage, dignity and humour. From Scott of the Antarctic to Frank Bruno, a tradition has been honoured. When Mr Branson's monumental stunt came to a premature end, he praised the Algerian Army. When Mr Bullimore was hauled from the Indian Ocean. he praised his suit. An Englishman in trouble always thanks his regiment and his tailor. These days, any regiment and any tailor will do.

I am deeply en-vious of both men. In the days of my youth, I and some friends drew up a tally of precocious tasks hat we lelt an adventurous soul should attempt in lifetime.

vaguely recall it listed trekking the jungle, racing a horse, climbing the Matterhorn, witnessing a war, rewriting Don Juan and dining at La Tour d'Argent. The list definitely embraced crossing the Sahara and sailing an ocean. No human being could claim to know the planet until these tasks had been accomplished. Needless to say, the bravado has

lapsed. Fate at some point took me to the jungle and a war. But altitude sickness hit me on the Matterhorn and gailoping is firmly prohibited in Rotten Row. The world and I have narrowed our horizons together. La Tour d'Argent is not what it was and Don Juan has only caused trouble. As Byron reflected on reaching 30: "My heart is not much greener and, in short, I have squandered my whole summer while Twas May." Even his lust for a duel was now confined to famoderate desire of killing one's more personal enemies'

So to watch two Britons tackle both the Sahura and the ocean in one week has been painfully nostalgic. I had both trips in mind, when had finished the crossword and cleared out the artic. Bullimore and Branson not only taunt us with their enterprise, but with their age. Branson is 46. Bullimore 56. while that other modern adventurer. Sir Ranulph Flennes, is 52. His retreat from Antarctica was last month's heroic failure. Fifty is clearly the age that separates the men from the boys. The first man to sail singlehanded round the globe, Joshua Slocum, did so at the age of 51 (in 1895). So there are no excuses. Back

to the lists, Jenkins. Up and at 'em. Which brings me to the Health and Safety Executive. Two phenomena are noted by today's philo-sophers of risk. One is that the human inclination to danger appears undiminished. If anything, it is enhanced by age and the greater accessibility of natural challenges. The other is that, despite seeking danger ourselves, we expect others to be risk-averse. We want to do crazy things ourselves, but everybody else, including the Government, must strive to make that

As the risk theorist John Adams puts it: "In the dance of the risk thermostats, the music never stops." Reduce

risk in one area of life and we strugrespond to safer cars (and seat-

belts) by driving faster. We scream about the risk of BSE in Britain, but gamble with our guts over tandoori chicken in Agra.

In other words, we are hypocrites about risk. Roads must get ever safer, restaurants more spotless and insurance more lavish. Councils are to be sued if they leave so much as a paving stone jutting on edge - by a lawyer who will boast a macho walk through the Hindu Kush. We want to dice with death, but expect the Government and insurance industry to rescue us if we misjudge the odds. And if they fail to honour their side of this unequal bargain, we sue.

The millions of pounds that the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force spent rescuing Mr Bullimore was in the tradition of the sea, This was despite him being more than the 1.500 miles from shore within which every nation has a duty to assist a vessel in distress. A ship must also rescue another ship, at a cost normally covered by insurance. But modern satellite equip-ment means that any sailor anywhere can now be considered rescuable. This must question the risk to rescuers' lives of rescuing round-the-world racers who take the short cut across the Southern Ocean and put themselves thousands of miles from sensible help. They must take this route knowing subconsciously that technology



Passepartout's uneasy ride on an elephant in Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days

lowers the risk of them getting lost. In Dr Adams's terms, these sailors are re-establishing the pretechnology balance of risk. They want to experience the same danger as did Slocum in the 1890s. The difference is that Slocum later sailed from Rhode Island on another voyage, and he and his boat were never seen again. Arthur Ransome wrote in his superb introduction to Slocum's memoirs, for all we know "they are sailing still and will sail on and on". Today the world would have followed their path by satellite and heard

any cries for help. Likewise with Mr Branson. Time was when merely rising off the ground was extremely hazardous. Phileas Fogg and Passepartout barely risked their gondola above a hundred feet. Aeronautics makes hot air ballooning safer, so Mr Branson seeks the upper jetstream. to outdo Fogg and restore the balance of danger and adventure. He increased the risk, to the point of failure. Had he come down in the Sahara in Fogg's day he would probably have vanished. Branson and his team had instant rescue.

Their danger was thus mitigated, though real. (I note that when a mother, Alison Hargreaves, risked and lost her life in 1995 on K2, she was widely criticised for neglecting her family duties: British heroes can be fathers but not mothers.)

The prospect before us is both exhilarating and alarming. It is of ever more reckless adventurers attracting ever greater publicity. They will climb Everest blindfold or row a bath-tub round the world or shoot themselves into space and we will cheer them on. Adventure holidays will boom. Amazonia and the Himalayas will dog with

et this enthusiasm will see an equal and opposite boom in safety authoritarianism. Already the regulations for organised sailing, riding and mountaineering render such activities expensive and even dull.
A canoeing tragedy in Devon two years ago was greeted by an army of newspapers, politicians and safety inspectors demanding to know how such an accident "could have been allowed to happen". I am told that sail training in oldfashioned schooners has, like commercial boating on the Thames. been all but wiped out by Department of Transport inspectors since

the Marchioness disaster. The quest for danger has had to find ever more eccentric outlets. Young people skydive, race motorbikes and take drugs. Like the players in Guys and Dolls, they will find somewhere to shoot dice with death. Leisure-time accidents have replaced disease as the commonest cause of fatality among the young, with men twice as likely to die as women. Many take their craving for danger offshore. Bulli-more and Branson made their own risk assessments. They did not rely on government to do it for them. They came unstuck, but will surely seek to blame no one but them-

selves and the gods of misfortune. Every time we lengthen the odds on danger, someone shortens them again. We salute them for it. In doing so, they restore our respec for nature, and remind us of the silliest statistic of all. The human being's risk of death is aways one hundred per cent.

Chalk and cheese

packs her mosquito repellent before heading for Angola tomorrow. the Foreign Office is getting out of that country sharpish. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, will be touching down on her return from Africa just as the Princess takes off. Although the Foreign Office was

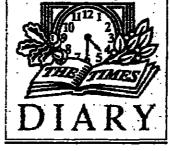
informed well in advance of the

Princess's trip, it made no effort to link Lady Chalker into the schedule. The country simply isn't big enough for both ladies: Lady Chalker has never forgotten how the glamorous Princess attracted more flashbulbs in Nepal three years ago, when both of them toured together.

There are well-founded reports that Lady Chalker felt her visit had



Lady Chalker and the garlanded Princess: smiling through



been overshadowed by the Princess of Wales," said one commentator. They both were at pains later to deny any difficulties. But Baroness Chalker would, wouldn't she. She was head girl at Roedean."

The Red Cross, organising the Princess's visit, said yesterday that it had never been informed of Lynda Chalker's visit to Angola, The Foreign Office explained: "Entirely two separate operations. There's no link between them."

dy tat merchants, this is top-shelf

stuff: 'The Last Will and Testament

Will power EVEN for the most ardent Kenne-

of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Collector's Edition Authentic Reproduction with Original Signature." The American publishers Caroll & Graff tell us that "this deluxe facsimile of the complete, unedited will ... a beautiful yet unadorned document, is both a keepsake and a memory book . . . The book has gilt-edged pages and that undefinable "heirloom quality". It makes O.J. Simpson's auto-biography look like *The Downing* Street Years.

Charming

MOLESWORTH lives on in the onky corridors of Harrow School, where snakes have become the favourite pet. Usually, the snakes are kept in the biology centre. When the centre closed early at the end of last term, however, they had to be transferred to the spare bedroom of a particularly brave house matron.

We did have about ten snakes and a chameleon but we are now down to about four," said one inksmudged ophiophile.

There was a boa constrictor and a royal python. We feed them frozen mice and rats but some of the

boys have fridges in their rooms to keep a supply.

 Dick Francis may soon find himself supplanted in the affections of the Royal Family by a rival author. Frederick Forsyth, writer of thrillers such as The Day of the Jackal, defended the royals so stoutly during the shambolic Carlton debate on the monarchy on Tuesday that



he has become the new hero at Buckingham Palace. Honours are expected.

Paris match THROUGHOUT what promises

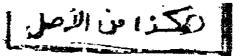
to be a tricky Ashes series this summer, Mike Atherton can keep up his wilting gander by thinking of September and his benefit tour to Champagne. After ten years of county cricket, Atherton, a Lancashire man, and a whole charabanc of former England captains, including Graham Gooch, David Gower, Ian Botham and Bob Willis, are planning a tour, the high-light of which will be a match against France at the Château de Thoury near Paris.

The boys are travelling over by Eurostar, courtesy of Atherton's wine merchant. Lay & Wheeler, and though Atherton himself prefers white burgundy to cham-pagne, will take in the houses of Bollinger, Venve Clicquot and Laurent Perrier. Too much boozing, however, and the loss to Zimbabwe may seem like small beer. The only time they met in 1989. France whipped MCC.



Atherton: whining

 Next time the Tate Gallery needs to raise funds, it might recall a decision made by the board in 1966. and now revealed in official papers released after 30 years. Two pic-tures by David Hockney were of-fered to the Tate for £60 each. Both, O for a gentle Lover and UN FMM, were rejected — too racy, apparently. Early Hockneys these days go for hundreds of thousands



HMF SALL KOM



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GAS AND GAITERS

Bishops should be political, but not partisan

Some Christians may feel that the only place bishops should oppose each other is on the chessboard. The sight of right reverend gentlemen crossing croziers in the election campaign will offend those who expect the Church to concentrate on the next world, not this one. But churchmen have a right, indeed duty, to address themselves to moral questions and these will inevitably shade into the political. The objection to the Bishop of Edinburgh's intervention on behalf of Tony Blair should not be that he sensed the need to speak, but that he spoke so little sense. His undergraduate essay in The Church Times looks all the more inappropriate next to the more measured words of the Archbishop of York. Although Archbishop Hope spoke before The Church Times went to press his thoughtfulness is the

best rebuke to Bishop Holloway's banalities. Although politicians might be tempted to remind the Church that there should be a strict demarcation between God's dominion and Caesar's, the border has always been porous and is becoming even more so. Both Archbishop Hope and Bishop Holloway are members of the Anglican communion. As Anglo-Catholics they might consider their Church the Church of St Augustine, but it is an Erastian foundation. The established status of the Church of England with bishops in the House of Lords and the Prime Minister supervising preferment binds it into the political life of the nation.

If John Major were to consider prelates now more politicised than ever, he might turn to his favourite author for enlightenment. In Anthony Trollope's Barchester Towers the opening chapters reflect the importance of political colouring in the 19th. century in deciding on the candidates for vacant dioceses. Bishops have greater justification than in the recent past for addressing political questions. The excursions into amateur theology by the Prime Minister and Mr Blair and the fumbled

public appetite for ethical renewal legitimise interventions from the Church.

Although bishops have an important role to play in political debate it should not be as politicians in purple. The authority of the Church, and the influence of any intervention, will be all the greater if bishops refrain from agitprop rhetoric and narrowly partisan stances. Bishop Holloway's observation that the "moral vision of Socialism has always been higher than that of Conservatism, and it was Karl Marx who understood why" is almost beyond satire.

It would be offensive to those millions of Christians who have suffered and continue to suffer under Marxist oppression if it were not so obviously naive. The Gospel is the possession of no party. Conservatives might lay more stress on original sin and respect for authority; progressives might stress Jesus's embrace of the excluded and disdain for the material. Neither group is the exclusive guardian of the tabernacle.

That sense permeates the words of David Hope, an effective theological college principal and skilful Bishop of London who shows every sign of proving an impressive Archbishop of York. Offering a gentle, and welcome, reproof to earlier interventions from other bishops interpreted as supportive of Labour, Dr Hope argues that "overriding pessimism has to be tempered and balanced by a recognition of some positive factors about where Britain is".

The archbishop also displays a more sophisticated approach to tackling want than many of his colleagues, remarking that "there is evidence from across the world that welfare destroys as much as it protects". Dr Hope's implication, that individual moral choices matter more than collective political decisions in ensuring human dignity, is the sort of insight a bishop should lend to politics. In an election that seems destined to descend into all kinds of name-calling, there will be a need for more still, small voices of attempts of both parties to appropriate the good sense such as Dr Hope's.

ASIAN BATTLEFRONTS

Enthusiasts for stakeholding should look quickly east

The strikes in South Korea yesterday claimed their first serious casualty when a Hyundai striker set fire to himself. The 200,000 angry protesters have already made union unrest in Germany or even France seem as bland as mineral water. Across the Sea of Japan in Tokyo, investors are dumping stock at a furious rate. They doubt whether Japanese growth will exceed 1.5 per cent this year, and they know that its debtladen Government, which has already spent DIRROLL OF LETISTING INS. ECONOMY SINCE. the "Japanese bubble" burst, has run out of both fiscal and monetary ammunition.

The two "unbeatable" Asian economies of the 1980s have taken severe knocks this decade; and for their citizens, the novelty of job insecurity is the culmination of a series of cultural and political shocks. If the Labour Party really believes that the "stakeholder society" which Japan could be said to have pioneered points the way to Britain's future prosperity, it should look carefully at these quivering Asian seismographs.

Japan's troubles may prove temporary precisely because both politicians and public are finally confronting the truth that its Establishment has long dodged, which is that deregulation offers the only solid basis for regaining competitive elan. But the benefits of the reforms now in the pipeline will not show for some time. South Korea has a still longer, and much rockier, road ahead. The Government's bruising battles with the traditionally militant unions that form its industrial élite are a foretaste of the troubles it can expect as it opens up the economy and dismantles the interventionist

machinery of state-guided capitalism. Reform of South Korea's labour laws, unchanged for 43 years, is overdue for two reasons. They are too restrictive, forcing much legitimate union activity into the domain of illegality; and they compensate workers for lack of freedom by making it all but

impossible for employers to shed labour. Democracy has exacerbated these anomalies, widening the wage gap between average workers and the 15 per cent who are unionised. For the past decade, employers who could no longer count on riot police to suppress union agitation have bought industrial peace with wage rises averaging 15 per cent a year, in deals not remotely compensated by rises in productivity. South Korea has become a high-cost economy with a e trade deficit. The Government is also under pressure at home and abroad to ease military-era controls on workers' rights. President Kim Young Sam has, however,

gone about reform in a manner calculated to infuriate not only the unions, but the broader public which was at least halfpersuaded of the need for reform. The Government's first mistake, for fear that South Korea's turbulent Opposition would succeed in blocking the new legislation, was to pull the decidedly undemocratic trick of rushing it through a vote before dawn on December 26, while opposition politicians were still asleep. Its second was to divide the reforms into two stages, giving immediate effect to laws allowing employers to sack workers and to bring in temporary staff to break strikes, but postponing most of the measures to liberalise union laws until 2002.

South Korea is no stranger to mass strikes: 400,000 took to the streets in 1989 and, so far, the protests have been much less violent than they were then. The Government is refusing to budge, gambling that a mixture of patriotism and anxiety about the faltering economy will produce a drift back to work. Since the law is flawed and its semiclandestine passage has caused outrage, it would be better advised to offer a compromise. The huge task of overhauling South Korea's superannuated economic model will be harder still if its mishandling of labour reforms embitters the whole society.

THE GRAPE THAT HEALS

Wine is a panacea for life as well as its raisin d'être

Scientists at the University of Illinois have discovered that grapes may cure cancer. After provisional researches on mice and cell structures, they have identified a cancerfighting agent which they have named, without much poetic or therapeutic feeling, resveratrol.

This medicinal substance was first discovered in a rare Peruvian legume called Cassia quincagulata. But it also occurs in grapes, particularly in red grapes, and grape products, including wine. This is a bonus for those who analyse, collect and market resveratrol. And it is encouraging for drinkers of red grape products that were invented for the British market such as claret, port and madeira. It is less encouraging for those who prefer white wine such as chardonnay, because they suppose it to be fashionable or less fattening. It also comes as a relief for haters of peanuts (the other host of resveratrol) or of broccoli (another promising "chemopreventive" of cancer).

For many years folk wisdom has declared that grapes are the appropriate present to take to the sick, even if the giver, having run out of cheerful conversation, then eats them himself. But for an even longer time poets and sages have praised the pleasures and

benefits of wine. So sang Omar Khhayam. But the founders of Europe believed that wine was a mark of civilisation itself, as well as a source of poetic inspiration and political wisdom. They summoned up powerful gods to represent the grape and its products. declaring their mission to spread the pleasures of civilisation to the barbarians. These pleasures were urban life, constitutional government, pax Romana - and viticulture. Wine was the crown of their elite social occasions, the dinner and drinking party. Scholars trace the spread of Greek colonisation and the Roman Empire by the mountains of amphorae and the shards of other wine-vessels they left behind.

Their poets, from Homer and Horace to Ausonius, their tragedians and comedians and their vase-painters celebrated the grape as beneficial. The Psalmist and many subsequent writers agree that wine makes glad the heart of gods and men. And the more enlightened medical writers still confirm their view. The American scientists are the first to suggest that wine may cure cancer. May they prove right. But even while their research remains a hypothesis, the claim that wine is a comfort for the long disease of life is as old as civilisation.

From the Director of the

Sir, Your leader on criminal justice

We certainly found that California unlike almost every other state —
 has embraced "three strikes and you're out" with gusto. It is also true that crime rates have fallen. But the decline in crimes actually began two years before "three strikes" was en-

in prison running costs alone.

Government's Crime (Sentences) Bill proposed for domestic burglars and Class A drug dealers on their third conviction, and repeat sexual or violent offenders, are more modest than those implemented in California. But there are clear warnings of the likely consequences (not least in terms

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN SHAW, Director, Prison Reform Trust, The Old Trading House, 15 Northburgh Street, EC1.

From the Minister of State.

Sir, Your leading article was right to suggest that there are lessons we can learn from successful approaches to tackling crime which have been

It is important to ensure both that criminals are caught and that they are properly dealt with when they are caught. We seek to build on best practice from the West and East Coasts of the US, and indeed elsewhere, to achieve these objectives, as they frequently learn from our experience.

You were wrong to suggest that the Governments proposals for mandatory minimum sentences are modelled on the approach adopted by Governor Wilson in California. And wrong as well to suggest that the Government is ignoring the lessons of

Bill build on some of the lessons from California but are specifically targeted on serious and persistent offenders from whom the public needs greater protection. I have also been encouraging the police to use some of the tactics which build on experience in New York.

you say, have to choose between these two approaches. We are pursuing the best of both.

Sir, The managing director of the company which made Hollywood Lovers accuses the managing director of Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television, Mr Bruce Gyngell, of censorship for his stand against television's obsession with sex and the sexual parts of the anatomy (report and leading article, January 4; letter, January 10

Broadcasters have a legal obliga-tion to ensure their programmes do not contain anything "which offends against good taste and decency". It is unfortunate that Parliament appears to leave it up to the broadcasters themselves to decide what is or is not inde-cent or distasteful; but Mr Gyngell seems to be showing more responsibility than many other broadcasters. He is only doing what Parliament requires all broadcasters to do, and he should be congratulated.

Yours faithfully, L. TAYLOR,

Sir, What has the country come to when a minister of the Crown, the Heritage Secretary, appears to en-dorse the right of a television executive to make moral choices for the rest of us? Even the Archbishoo of Canterbury does not enjoy such power.

Television executives should show a proper level of humility and stick to making commercial judgments. They can safely leave the rest of us to exercise moral judgments by use of the on/off button.

Sincerely, TONY ROBINSON, 6 Clos du Bergoje, Auderghem, 1160 Brussels. January 4.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Counting the cost of 'American zero'

Prison Reform Trusi

policy ("American zero", January S) commends the mandatory sentencing practices introduced in California. We have recently made these the subject of detailed research.

acted and mirrors a national trend.

Whatever their effect on crime, mandatory penalties have had a very definite impact on the courts and the prisons. The number of guilty pleas has declined, leading to courtroom congestion. And the number of prisoners held on remand has mushroomed. One authoritative estimate is that "three strikes" will cost Califor-nian taxpayers \$5.5 billion each year

The mandatory penalties in the of public spending on building and maintaining new jails) from Californian experience.

January 8.

Home Office

deployed in the United States.

the successes of policing in New York. The proposals in the Crime (Sen-

Britain's voters will not therefore, as

Yours faithfully, DAVID MACLEAN, The Home Office. Queen Anne's Gate, SWI.

'Hollywood Lovers'

From Mr L. Taylor

12 Bransby Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. January 5.

From Mr Tony Robinson

tinues to discriminate against families and that "a tax system which supports the family provides the best guarantee of a more stable society for all". The question in the minds of every voter persuaded by your argument is which political parties are going to take courage and include in their

manifesto specific proposals to change the tax and benefits system in favour of families. We cannot continue to put the family on an ideological pedestal with our words and then undermine it with our taxes. If politicians really do not want the State to become a nanny to the nation's children then they must surely

change the tax regime on marriage and families that drives both parents out of the home, often leaving the children inadequately cared for. Yours faithfully

TJAMES HULLEN:.. Hullen House, Woodfield Lane, Hessle, North Humberside. January 6.

Harmonious future beckons for books and the Internet

From the Minister for Science and Technology

Sir, Simon Jenkins's praise for the book and the written word ("No plug, no wires, no rivals", January 4) could have been credible without the need to attack electronic communications. They are complementary. Those who enjoy information on paper should rejoice in the ability to access vast libraries of ideas at any time through the Internet.

Apart from contributing to im-provement in the quality of life, an understanding of how to make full use of electronic superhighways at school, at home, in voluntary groups, in our public services and at work is critical for our ability to compete in the global economy. This is why the Government has launched the Information Society Initiative, with separate but co-ordinated activities involving all

the relevant departments. As part of this, the information technology campaign ("IT for All"), an-nounced on December 3, will work with private companies and voluntary groups from diverse sectors to give more people hands-on experience of modern information and communications technologies. Nearly 30 companies are already signed up, with many more expressing interest in being part of what must be the world's first such awareness campaign.

Government does have a positive role, but "IT for All" is private-sector led. Simon Jenkins's concern about Treasury subsidy is misplaced, though we have announced the creation, as soon as current Millennium Commission commitments allow, of a new information and communication technology fund of up to £300 million a year from lottery proceeds. This will certainly assist in broadening access to the Information Society.

Yours faithfully, IAN TAYLOR. Department of Trade and Industry. Victoria Street, SWI.

Sir. Professor Robert Browning (let-

ter, January 6) admits failure to

understand an important point suc-

cinctly made in your leading article,

'No Elgin, no marbles", of December

suggest the reason is his not

21 (see also letters, December 28). May

distinguishing between the inter-

mittent European regard for the

Parthenon sculptures prior to Elgin,

and the storm of interest aroused by

Parthenon broke with the antiquarian

tradition of visual record-making that

Browning traces back to Cyriac of

Ancona. From then on the sculptures

would be viewed not only as temple

Greek classical style was undergoing radical revision, the Elgin Marbles

were placed at the centre of an artistic

'Times' and the Nazis

Sir. German fury at the reporting by

The Times of the bombing of Guer-

nica (Mr Hutchinson's letter, January

9; see also letters, December 24 and 31)

evoked a letter from the paper's

Geneva correspondent, H. G. Dan-

iels, to the Editor, Geoffrey Dawson.

wrote from Berlin on May 16, 1937,

have been very savage about The

"The latest discovery is that if you

spell it backwards it spells SEMIT,

which leads them to deduce that we

are a Jewish-Marxist organisation

and that nothing else was to be

Nazi propagandists revived the "SEMIT" theme in 1942 when they

produced a jigsaw linking The Times

Times, in fact worse than at any

period I remember.

expected of us!"

Yours faithfully,

Surbiton, Surrey.

January 9.

with Jewish interests.

NICHOLAS R. MAYS

From the Bishop of Hull

Sir, Your excellent leading article on politics and the family (January 4)

points out that the tax regime con-

(Deputy Archivist, The Times), 16 Chesterfield Court,

"The German papers." Daniels

From Mr Nicholas R. Mays

At a time when understanding of

ornament but also as art objects.

res from

their eventual arrival in London.

Removal of the scu

From Dr lan Jenkins

From Captain T. M. Quarendon,

Sir, The politicians' current obsession with providing costly computer equipment for even the youngest schoolchildren is particularly to be deplored, when the money could be so much

education.

Simon Jenkins spoils the case a little by his sentimental attachment to the book. As a means of presenting simple text to the reader, currently the book clearly beats the computer screen; on the other hand, the computer system is the clear winner in terms of storing text and moving it easily from place to

better spent on other aspects of

Sooner or later a portable computer screen, as convenient as a book, will appear, to be pre-loaded with text from a fixed installation as required or fed online; where will the book stand then as a practical tool?

The words of the Bible were originally recorded on handwritten scrolls, later on the printed page, and are now available on CD-Rom. Their value remains unchanged, and the medium is judged by how well it brings the message to the reader, not by the technique used.

Yours faithfully (via word processor and fax), REVOR QUARENDON. Freeland Cottage, Meonstoke, Southampton. January 6.

From Mr Richard Jones

Elgin Marbles, from ornament to art

Sir, Having been in the computer industry for 29 years, I whole-heartedly support Simon Jenkins's contention that the humble book stands no chance of being replaced by a world of whizzing screens full of textual information.

As publishers of The Good Software Guide, which is used exclusively by computer professionals, our experience is that new subscriptions for the disk version (which is read on

acquisition of the Marbles for the

nation served as a catalyst for that

debate. The committee's report is one

of the most remarkable and important

art-historical documents of the age, confirming the role the Marbles

would henceforth enjoy as paradigms

of complementary Neo-classical and

The modern European identity of

the sculptures was forged in the

Enlightenment culture of Elgin's day,

and cannot be understood without

Sir, Many yachts have been capsized by heavy seas and still sailed on

("Warning signals that flash danger round the globe", Sport, January 10). I

have always understood that monohulis are rated safer than

multihulls because most of them have

carried heavy iron keels which have

applied a righting motion so that the

yachts do not remain inverted.

It appears from aerial photographs

that M Dubois' yacht had a very lightweight and narrow keel with a

bulb at the extremity. Mr Bullimore's

yacht showed the vestigial remains of

a similarly narrow keel which had

It would seem that designers of

keels have been concentrating more

on speed than safety. If this is so, it

would surely be better for race

organisers to insist on safer designs

rather than restrict the line of the

Highleigh, Chichester, West Sussex.

Sir, On New Year's Eve just before

midnight, at the party which I attended, it didn't seem enough to sing

Auld Lang Syne in the house, so we

spontaneously rushed out and danced

doing the same in west London. But, on the big night. December 31, 1999,

the instinct to get out will be much stronger: it would be fun to go to the

Meridian line and dance with every-

one on the line itself. Presumably, for

a brief moment, we could have one

half of our body in the second

millennium and the other half in the

to France? Could French people also

be partying all along the line? Also in

And, instead of bonfires, could laser

beams be organised, to light up the

length of the line?

Yours faithfully.

January 7.

JEREMY BAKER.

6 Crescent Mansions.

122 Elgin Crescent, W11.

Could this linear party be extended

Frankly, not a lot of people were

mostly been broken off.

course to different latitudes.

From Mr Jeremy Baker

Yours sincerely,

R. A. C. HILL

The Saplings.

in the street.

The family and politics A chorus line?

Romantic artistic values.

acknowledging this fact.

The British Museum,

Roman Antiquities.

Bloomsbury, WCI.

Yacht rescues

From Mr R. A. C. Hill

Department of Greek and

Yours faithfully.

IAN IENKINS.

the screen) are declining while subscriptions to the printed, book

version are increasing rapidly.
Schools do need up-to-date computers and software. Every child should have the opportunity of learning the keyboard, word-processing, spreadsheets and databases; possibly also the capability to send and retrieve messages via the telephone system, although that can be simulated in-

ternally without a phone connection. One course for one year should be more than adequate. The rest is

Yours faithfully, RICHARD JONES, Editor, The Good Software Guide, April Cottage, 43 Reading Road.

Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Alistair Budd

Sir, Simon Jenkins's eloquent tribute to the enduring qualities of the book is also relevant to the debate concerning the Internet and the future of news

Reading the website of a daily newspaper is similar to watching the television adaptation of a favourite novel. It may complement and promote the original text, but it will never, in my view, replace it. Newspapers, like books, are an indispensable part of civilised society.

Yours faithfully, ALISTAIR BUDD, 20 Rue du Nord, CH-1180 Rolle, Vaud, Switzerland. January 7.

From Mr Don Nathan

Sir. Did I alone savor the irony of reading Simon Jenkins's dismissal of the Internet while on the Internet?

DON NATHAN, 275 Greenwich Street New York City, NY 10007, USA. January 4.

Imperilled archives

From the Secretary of the and philosophical debate. The inquiry National Council on Archives of the Parliamentary Select Com-mittee deliberating in 1815 on the

Sir, Sir Simon Towneley (letter, December 31) rightly expresses concern about the impact of local government reorganisation on the fragile network of county archive services in England. The Government's refusal to build any safeguards for the survival of these key storehouses of our local and national history into the reorganisation legislation for England, when some safeguards were provided in the equivalent measures

inexplicable. Further reorganisations will come into effect in April 1997 and April 1998, involving many more councils. It is already apparent that even where joint arrangements can be agreed. these are likely to be very short-term (three or five years at most), adding considerable uncertainty to the future

security of these services.

The situation would be improved significantly if the next Government were to make archives services a statutory function of local authorities. Many local authorities have provided excellent archives services for decades; they are now seriously under

neglect and underfunding. Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS KINGSLEY, Secretary, The National Council on Archives. 9 Windsor Street, Pittville, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

threat as a result of government

Monarchy debate

January 2.

From Mr Mark Damazer Sir, The Carlton Television programme on the monarchy (letters, January 9 and 10) should not be regarded as the first major television debate on the subject.

BBCl transmitted a one-hour edition of You Decide with Paxman in August last year. Two million people watched. There was a phone-in poll leading up to the programme to decide which proposition, pro-monarchy or republican, should be subject to close scrutiny, and a brief phone-in vote at the end to glean a response from the audience.

We do not pretend that our polls spoke for the nation, but the second of our two votes interestingly indicated support for continuing with a monarchical system of government at about the same level as Tuesday night's poll.

Yours faithfully, MARK DAMAZER (Head of Weekly Programmes, BBC News) British Broadcasting Corporation, Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12.

A Shropshire double

From Miss Christine Long

Sir. There is a pleasing symmetry, and surely a rare coincidence, in learning from the two main reports on your front page today that Oswestry in Shropshire is both the birthplace of Richard Branson's balloon, which subsequently came down, and home to BT's centre for last night's phone-in polls, recording that the popularity of the monarchy has gone up.

Yours faithfully, C. M. LONG, 29 Heath View, N2.

January 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 10: The Princess Royal today visited Heimtextil, Messe Frankfurt GmbH. Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage, Frankfurt am Main,

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson

A Memorial Service to commemorate the life and work of Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson. KBE, FEng. will be held at noon on Friday, January 31, in Bath Abbey.

Appointment

Mr Michael Cook to be High Commissioner to Uganda in succession to Mr Edward Clay who will be moving to a new

Service dinners

RNR Public Affairs Branch Rear-Admiral Jeremy Blackham Admiral President, Royal Naval College Greenwich, was the principal guest at the annual Royal Naval Reserve Public Affairs branch dinner held last night at the college. Commodore Barry Leighton. Director of Public Relations Royal Navy, was the host. The Commodore and the Director of the Royal Naval Reserves and the Press Secretary and Chief of Information to the Ministry of Defence were among the guests.

G Battery HAC General Sir Martin Farndale was the principal guest at a dinner given by veteran members of G Locating Battery HAC last night at Armoury House to mark the 50th anniversary of the battery foundation. Colonel Graeme Gilchrist presided. Major Sir Thomas Skyrme, the first battery com-

mander, was present.

Anniversaries this weekend are on the facing page

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Graham Allen, MP, 44: the Right Rev J.A. Baker. former Bishop of Salisbury, 69: Mr J. Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic surgeon. 80: Sir Alan Bowness (life peer), 69: Sir Robin Carford, civil servant, 74; Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, and Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder, 54: Mr Neville Duke former test rilot. 75: Mr A.A. Gray, former chairman, Wellcome Foundation. 85; Mr Brian Moore, rugby player, 35; Sir Alastair Morton, former chair-man. Eurotunnel. 59: Lord Newton. 47: Sir Anthony Nutting. former MP. 77; Mr Jim Perris, Governor, Wormwood Scrubs. 55: Mr Bryan Robson, footballer-manager, 40; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, 69; Mr Arthur Scargill, trade unionist, 59; Mr John Sessions, actor and com-edian, 44; Air Commodore Joy Tamblin, former director, WRAF. 71: Mr R.C. Tress. former Master.

Birkbeck College, 82. TOMORROW: Miss Kirstie Alley. actress. 42: Mr Anthony Andrews. actor. 49: Mr Michael Aspel. broadcaster. 64: Sir Charles Ball. company director. 73: Lord Board-man. 78: Mr P.W. Botha. former President of South Africa. 81: Sir lames. Rottomber. former. dip. James Bottomley, former dip-



Jason Connery, the actor, is 34 today; Des O'Connor, the entertainer, will be 65 tomorrow

lomat, 77: the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, NFU, 68; Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 56: Lady Cosgrove, 51: Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 80; Mr Keith Dawson, former Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 60: Mr Brendan Foster, athlete. 49; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 53; Baroness Eggardon, 61; Miss Anne Howells.

singer, 56; Lord Justice McCowan, 69: Mr Denys Milne, former managing director, BP Oil. 71: Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary. Labour Party. 76: the Very Rev Dr John Moses, Dean of St Paul's, 59; Sir John Rennie, former Governor-General Manritius, 80; Sir Terence Streeton, diplomar, 67: Lord Justice Swinten

Marriage

Mr J.E. Hodson and Miss T.M. Stefanello The marriage took place on Saturday, January 4, at St Mary's. Church, Tysoe, of Mr James Edmund Hodson, to Miss Tatiane

School news

Melchior Stefanello.

Mill Hill School Foundation Term started on January 7. Mrs L. Duncan joins Belmont, Mill Hill Junior School, as Head of the Upper School. The Senior Monitor is Matthew Frise. The Prestige Lecture will be given on Monday, February 10, by Baroness Cox, Term ends on March 26. A reunion of all pupils at Mill Hill School from 1970-80 will be held on Old Millhillians Day, Sunday, June 22. Further details can be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary.

Bowyers' Company The Lord Mayor yesterday attended a service of thanksgiving to mark the resturation of the Church of St

Bondoh without Bishopsgate. Dur-ing the service the Bishop of London dedicated a new stained glass win-dow presented by the Bowyers' Company. Prebendary Alan Tamer officiated. The Master and Clerk of

in E flat (Lefebure-Wely); 6.30 HC; Rev M

ST LUKES, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC, 10.30 MP & HC, Rev N Roberts; 6.30 E: Great Lord of Gods (Gibbons), Rev L Mazabula.

HC. Rev N Roberts, 6:30 E. Great Lord of Gods (Globorod, Rev L Marabuila. ST MARKS. Regeath Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Gabrielli), Tribus miraculis (Patiestrina), Rev T Devonshire Jones. ST MARGARETS. Westminster, SW1: 11.00 Sung Buch, Darke in F. Jubliste in C (Britten), Bethlehem down (Warlock), Rev P Cowell. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2-8 HC; 9.45 Euch: 11.30 Visitors' S. Rev A Hurst; 2.45 Chinese S. Rev G Lee; 6.30 E. ST MARY ARBOTS CHURCH, Rensington WS: 9.30 Parish Euch; 11.15 Choral M. The Vicar: 6.30 E. Rev M Fuller.

6.30 E. Rev M Fuller. ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM. Puer natus est pro nobis (Guerrero). Canon Lord Plikingston; 6 E & B. ST MARY-THE-YIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Darke in E. Great and marvellous are Thy works (Tomkins), Bishop of London: 6

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Euch, O magnum mysterium (Vimoria), When to the temple Mary Went (Eccles), Canon G Reid.
ST PAHLES, Wilson Place, SWI: 8, 9 HC, 11 Euch, What cheer (Walton), New Year Curol (Britten), Rev N Dawson.
ST PETER'S. Eaton Square, SWI: 8, 15 HC, 10 Family Euch: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Vigu Jesse (Bruckner), Ave Maria (Bruckner), Fr Ar Chilówick.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloueroper Road, SWI: 9 LM:

PT & Childwick.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 9 LM;

II HM. Pastoralmesse RV1-10 (Mozard, There shall a star from Jacob come forth (Mendelssohn), FT & Bushau.

CHAPEL ROTAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA.

HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: II M. Responses (Smith), Te Deum (Gibbons), Almighty God, which by the leading of a star (Buill). Rev P R C Abram.

HAPEL ROYAL. St Jemes's Paince: 8.30 HC 1.15 MP, Gloria in excelsis (Weelkes), Rev D J

Burgess.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30

HC: !! M. Stanford in C. The three kings (Cornelius) 3.30 E. See, see the Word incarnate (Gibbons).

Jibbons). WEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 1-1-1, Te Deum (Vaughan Williams), Here is the Riedoor (Howells). Canon M Bordesur: 12.30

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.P. Burdon and Miss H.F. Don

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burdon, of Harworth, South Yorkshire, and Henrietta, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Don, of North Elmham, Norfolk. Mr J.S. Dockerill and Miss G.M. Batty

The engagement is announced between Justin, only son of Mr Anthony I.P. Dockerill, of Henleyon-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Colin Lamden-Hills, of Hermitage, Berkshire, and Gina, youngest daughter of Mr Michael Batty, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Elizabeth Batty, of Honiton, Devon.

Mr CJ. Fins and Miss S.J. Greenwood and Mass 3. Orecament is announced between Crispin, younger son of the late Mr Michael Finn and of Mrs Michael Finn, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, only daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Bernard Greenwood, of Birstwith Yorkshire Mr D.B.M. Fox

and Miss S. Scho The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr and Mrs Barry Fox, of Jennings-bury, Hertford, and Silke, only daughter of Herr and Frau Wolf-gang Schumann, of Löhne, Germany.

2nd Lieutenant A.J. Holland, RAMC.

and Miss S.N. Stambrook The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs W. Holland, of Vale, Guern-Mrs W. Houard, of Vale, Chern-sey, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Stambrook, of Brus-sels, Belgium. Mr N.F.J. Holmes

Mr N.H.J. Houses
and Miss K.M. Sherriff
The engagement is announced
between Nicholas, son of Mr Peter
Holmes and the late Mrs Diana
Holmes, of Shotesham, Norfolk,
and Kate, younger daughter of Mr
and, Mrs. Mark, Sherriff, of

Blairdrummond, Stirling Mr A.I. Howard and Miss A.E.S. Godfrey The engagement is announced between Alec, son of Group Captain and Mrs Richard Howard, of

Kimpson, Hampshire, and Anna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Godfrey, of Pishill, Oxfordshire Mr R.B. Hurford Clark and Miss L.M., Gerada-Azzopardi The engagement is announced between Rupert Benjamin, son of herwen kupert Benjamin, son of Mr Timothy Hurford Clark, of Haywards Heath. West Sussex, and Mis Pearl (Tiddley) Morrison, of Tollard Royal, Wiltshire, and Ida Marie (Dida), eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Gerada.

Azzopardi, of London SW15 and

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standing Distance or couditi no object 01424 815280.

OUTHWELDS Newly decrin own loo/humin. To let prof M/S, in practly house, mark tabe, 85'0pu inc. Tal Mrs Short Day 0171 7318328 Eve 0181 8700448.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

GIFTS

FLATSHARE

SITUATIONS

and Miss S.M. Clow
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Keith Higgins, of Oughtibridge, South Yorkshire, and Sandra, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Clow, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Mrs Monica

Young, of Arundel, West Sussex. Mr J.M.A. Meeson

and Miss N.J. Graham The engagement is announced between Jeremy Mark Anthony, son of Dr and Mrs Andrew Meeson, of Hampstead, London, and Nicola Jane, daughter of Mr Simon Graham, of Evercreech. Somerset, and Mrs Jean Graham, of Malborough, Devon.

Major N.J. Mercer and Miss D.E. Holliman

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. Mercer, of Low Bridge House, Markington, North York-shire, and Dawn (Aurora) elder daughter of the Ven J.J. Holliman, QHC, Archdeacon for the Army, and Mrs Holliman, of Tidworth,

Mr H.F. Mykura and Miss J.P.W. Walker and Miss J.P.W. Walker
The engagement is announced
between Hamish, youngest son of
Mrs Alison Mykura and the late
Dr Walter Mykura, of Edinburgh,
and Janey, second daughter of Mrs
Patricia Walker and the late Brigadier Harry Walker, of Forfar,

Mr C.B.R. Perin and Miss A.C. Robinson and Miss A.C. Robinson
The engagement is announced
between Claude, younger son of
Mr and Mrs Raymond Perin, of
Waterloo, Brussels, Belgium, and
Alexandra, daughter of Mr Ken
Robinson, of Gilbury, Hampshire,
and Mrs Christine Hills, of
Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr B.D. Swift and Miss N.J. Dryden-Smith The engagement is announced between Benjamin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Swift, of Minchinhampton. Gloucester-shire, and Naomi, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Smith, of Norton, Kent.

Mr A.F. Tinsley and Miss M. Hogan The engagement is announced between Alan, son of the late Mr and Mrs Edward Tinsley, of Dublin, and Margaret, daughter of Mrs Josephine Hogan, of Clonskeagh, Dublin, and of the late Mr Patrick Hogan.

Mr M.J. Warshaw and Miss P.L. Hyman The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Warshaw, of London, and Başil Hyman, of London.

Azzopardi, of London SW15 and Basil Hyman, of London Maita.

Captain A.M. Ozanne, ZKTR. and Dr K.A. Smith and Miss C.L. Davy The engagement is announced between Strion, sort of Mr John between Andrew. sont of Mr and Woods, of Hurley, Berkshire and Mrs E.H. Ozanne, of Torteval of the late Mrs Patricia Harris, Guernsey, and Catherine, daughter of Dr ter of Wing Commander and Mrs and Mrs Roger Smith, of Old P.J. Davy, of Goudhurst, Kentium in Marston, Oxford.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday after Epiphany ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch: 6.30 Choral E.

6.30 Choral E.
ARMAGH-CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Choral M.
Sing we merrily iBattenj. The Dean: 3.15
Choral E. Waimisley in D minor. How lovely
are the messengers (Mendelssohn).
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC:
11 Choral Euch. Illuminare Jerusalem
(Schofleid). Star in the South (Sargent). Rev J
Prasadam: 4 Choral E. Responses (Rose). Lo!
Star-led chiefs (Crotch). BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Choral M: 10.30 Euch: 4 Choral E.

M: 10.30 Euch: 4 Choral E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 H Euch: 11 H Euch.

Missa Aeterna Christina (Palestrina). The

Dean: 3 Ordination, Mass in Fsharp minor for

double choir and two organs (Widor).

Archdeacon of Gower,

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL. College Green: 7 40

M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch: 3.30 Choral E. M: 8 HC: 10 CHOTAL BUCH: 3.0 CHOTAL E.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M,
Rev S MacLachlan: 11 S Euch. Missa laudare
dominum de coells (Jassus). Ecce adventi (Byrd). Archdeacon of Canterbury: 3.15 E.
Clucas in F sharp. Reges Tharsis (Byrd): 6.30
Compilme. Rev P G C Brett.

Citical in F sharp, Reges Tharse toytop: 6.30

Compiline Rev P G C Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch.

Cantabile [Franck], Missa brevis [Palestrina],

Omnes de Saba venient (Handi), Canon R

Chapman: 3 E Jesus service (Mathias), Lo!

Star-led chiefs [Crotch].

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 HC:

9 30 Euch: 11.15 S Euch: 6 Choral E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10

Choral Euch, Francis Jackson in E When to the

temple Lohannes Eccard), The Bishop: 11.30

Choral M. Responses John Reading), Te Deum

Gibbons), Lo! Star-led chiefs [Crotch], The

Dean: 3.30 Choral E Trebles' Service (Weelkes),

Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers): 6.30 Es. Canon

T Dennis.

T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Stanford In C. Verburn caro factum est iMalcolmi. Right Rev C Luxmoore. 11 S Euch. Darke in A minor. Child of heaven (Foster). Canon P Atkinson: 3.0 E. Darke in F. Lo! Starled chiefs (Croich). reu cnieis (Croich).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OXFORD: 8
HC: 10 M. Sumision in G. Canon Jeffery: 11.15
S Euch, Missa venatorum (Lassus), Ubi carlias
(Durufié). Archdeacon of Oxford: 6 E.
Walmistey in D minor. The three kings
(Cornellus).

(Cornellus).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 C: 10.30

Euch, Missa mrate coell (Haydri), Spirit of the
Living God (Leddington Wright), Mrs M
Sedgwick: 5 E. Spirit of the Living God
(Leddington Wright), Noble in 8 minor. O fors
clover walk istantion(). cioser waik (Stanford).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Canon M
Perry: 11.15 HC. Canon R Coppin: 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch.
Liule organ mass (Mozari). The shepherds
farewell (Berlioz). Rev J McFarlane: 6.30
Epiphany procession.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Sung Euch. O come ye servants (Tyel, Let all mortal flesh (Balistow). The Dean; 11.15 M. Omnics de Saba venient (Handil, Canon K Parry; 3 E. Harwood in A flat, Lo! Star-led chile's (Crotch): 6.30 ES. From the rising of the sun (Ouseley). Preb S Worth. GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch. Missa brevis (Gabriell), Greul and marveilous (Tomkins). Canon Dr M Palmer; 11.15 M. Jubilate in C (Britten). The three kings (Cornelius), Rev J Fielding; 63.0 E. Wood in E flat. When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn). Canon D Bryant.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP: 10.30 S Euch. Schubert in G. The three kings (Cornelius): 4 Choral E. Murtill in E. J saw a maiden leasaque art Pettman). Dr J G White. LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Messe de minuti (Charpentier). Evaliate Justi (Vladanat). O secrum convivium (Croce). The Dean: 3.30 E. Responses (Neary). Somsion in A. Hymn to the Vinglin (Britten).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Kelly). Let all mortal flesh (Balfrstow). Rev S Foster: 11.15 M, Festival Te Deum (Britten). Sing joyfulty (Byrd): 3.45 E. Stanford in G. O for a closer walk with god (Stanford). Mr J Walker.

(Stantord), Mr.J Walker,
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30
Euch, Bishop of Warrington: 3 Choral E,
Canon M Boyling: 4 HC.
LIANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 9, 12.15
Euch: 11 Sung Euch, Mass for four voices
(Monteverdi), Creed (Merbecke), The Dean:
3.30 Choral E, Responses (Smith), Sumsion in
A, Bethlehem Down (Warlock): 6.30 E, Mr. K
Hall. A. Bethlehem Down (Warlock): 6.30 E. Mr K. Hall.

MANCHESTER CATREDRAL: 8.45 MP: 9 HC: 10.30 S. Euch. Missa brevis in F (Mozart). 6.30 Epiphany procession. NewCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC: 9.30 S. Euch. Missa festiva (Peeters). Canon I Bennett. 6 Choral E. Dyson in D. Tomorrow shall be my dancing day (Gardner).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 9 Pamily C: 10.30 S. Euch. Jackson in G. O linde one sweet (Bach), Rev Dr. G. Pantison: 3.30 Epiphany procession: 6.30 EP. Canon G. Tarris. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M. Moeran in E (lat. 10.30 Euch. Jackson in G. the Dean: 3.30 E: 6.00 Epiphany procession. RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8.00 Euch: 9.30 Parish Euch. St. Michael's service. John Benson. the Lydian Singers. Chester. Canon Ken Stott: 11.30 M: 12.30 Euch: 3.00 Holy Baptism: E. Rev David Paton-Williams.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45 M. Te deum: Wood in E. Personeni hodde (Holst): 10.30 Euch. Mass for three voices (Byrd), Ante Luciferum genitus (Handl). Archdeacon of on bridge: 3.15 E. Wood in E. We three kings (Hopkins).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch.

(Hopkins).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch.
Darke in E. Tribus miraculis (Marenzio). The
Precentor: 11.30 M. Responses (Baxter).
Jubilate in C (Britten). O nata lux de lumine

(Talils), The Treasurer: 3 E, Sumsion in G. All they from Saba (Handi). SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 9,00 HC (1662): 10 MP: 10,30 S Euch; Festal E, Canon Jane Sinclair.

MP: [0.30 S EUCh: Pestal E. Canon Jane Sinctair.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 00 Euch, the Provote I Choral Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozari, The three kings [Cornellus], Here is the little door (Howelis]; 3 Choral E. Stanford in B flat, When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn), The Vice-Provos!:

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M: 8 HC, 9.30 Parish C. The Chancellor; 1 Sung Euch, Darke in F. The three kings (Cornellus), The Precentor: 3, 15 E. St. Paul's sery (Howells), See, see the Word is incurrante (Globours).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M: 10 S Euch, The Lamb flavenerh, Trume Eucharist (Briggs), and didst thou travel light (Shephard), Fantaisie in E. (lat (Seint-Saens). The Chancellor: 6 E. The Treasurer.

WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9, 15 Parish

Fantaisie in E flat (Seint-Seins). The Chancellor: 6 E The Treasurer.

WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Parish C. The Provose: 11 Solemn Euch. Canon Ian Knox. 4 Epiphany Procession.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 Sung Euch. Darke in E. Ubl carias (Durufiée, The Chancellor: 11.30 M, Irreland in F. Ave werum corpus [Elgari: 3 E & Commem of Bishop Bekynton. Stanford in B flat. Eastern monarchs (Sumsion). The Sub-Dean.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC. 10 M. Stanford in B flat. A little child ther is yborn (Bennet). Canon D Grav: 11.15 Euch. Collegium regale (Howells). Herr. Con. du bist unsire Zuflücht (Mendelssohn). Canon D Gray: 3.00 E. Dr A Cameron; 5.45 Organ recital Naoya Sano: ES. Syster H Markey.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Brimen). Rocking (Hill). Prefude sur l'introît de l'Epiphante (Durufié). Canon Alan Wilkinson: S Euch. Mass for four voles (Byrd). O sacrum convivium (Near). Clacona in c minor (Buxnehude): 3.30 E. Chichester service (Walton). A hynn to the Virgin (Britten). Weschon leuchter (Buxnehude). The Canon Tressurer.

Wie Schön leuchiet (Buxtehude), The Canon Treasurer.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8,45 HC: 10 S Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd). The Precentor: 11.30 M, Collegium Regale (Howels); 4 E, Canon Ronald Mercalle.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 M. The Dean: 3 Ordination of Priests, Mass in F major K. 192 (Mozart), Sister Lavinle Byrne. ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL Bury St Edmunds: 8 HC: 10 S Euch, The three Kings (Cornelius), New Year Carol (Britten), Canon M Mingins; 3: 30 Choral E, Make we merry (Carier), Bethlehem Down (Warlock).

ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: 8 HC: 10 HC, Missa vidi speciosam (Vicordis): 11:30 MS, Gioria in excessis (Weelkes): 6 St Giles at Six, Tomlin Consort: 8 ES, rev C G Kenpy. Tomin Conson: 8 ES, rev C G Kenny.
ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 11
MS. When to the temple (Eccard), Rejoice in the
Lord alway (Redford), Rev R Frazer: 6 ES, Rev R
Frazer.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M: 11 S Euch. Missa brevis (Chapple). Personent hodie (arr Holst, Chancellor, Canon in Residence, 3.15 E B W Nayfor in D. Seek him that maketh the seven stars [Kigari, Wie Schön leuchber der Morgenstern (Bunehude). Rev Professor John Barton, Oxford University. ALI SAINTS, Margaret Street, Wi: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP: 11 HM, Missa Papae Marcelli, Palestrina: 6 E&B. Collegium regale (Howells), Rev I E Davies.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11.00 Missa ad fugam (Palestrina). As with gladness (Stanford), Magi viderunt stellam (Vittoria). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children's service: [1 M. Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC: 6 E. Rev D Bean. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. COVERI Garden, WCZ: 11.15 Rev J McMahon: 6.30 Rev 5 Hood.

Coveni Garden, WCZ: 11.15 Rev J McMahon:
6.30 Rev S Hood.
6.30 Rev S Hood.
6.30 Rev S Hood.
6.30 Rev S Hood.
6.31 Rev S Hood.
6.31 Rev S Hood.
6.31 Rev S Hood.
6.31 LM; 11 HM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC: 11 MS, Rev S Millar; 5 E, Rev S Millar; 7.30 E, Rev S Millar; 5 E, Rev S Millar; 7.30 E, Rev S Millar; 7.30 E, Rev S Millar; 7.30 E, Rev S Millar; 8 E, Rev S Millar; 7.30 E, Rev S Millar; 8 E, Rev S Millar; 7.30 E, Rev S Millar; 8 E, Rev S Millar; 8 L Rev Dr L GIRT Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 M, Rev Dr I GIRT Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 M, Rev Dr I GIRT Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 M, Rev Dr F Graves; 6.30 HC.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St. EC2: 11 Choral Euch. Rev P D Schmlege: 7 Choral V, Mr B Fisher.
ST RASTHOLOMEW THE GREAT; Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC: 11 M, Collegium regale (Howelis, Lof Starled chiefs (Crotch), Lond Coggan; 6.30 Choral Euch. Mass for two choirs (Rheinberger), The Rector.
ST BRIDES, Flees Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubliate (Weelkes short service), Darke in A minon, Lof Starled chiefs (Crotch) Canon J Oases; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Byrd), Say, where is he born: (Mendelssohn), Canon J Oases.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral M. Te Desum ST CLEMENT DAN

CALES.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral M, Te Deum
à Jubilale (Boyce in C), Now when Jesus was
born (Bach), Rev R Noble. l MacLeod. ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Piace: I i Sung Mass, Messe des orphéonisses (Gound), Jubilate ST ETHELDREDAS, Ely Piace II Sung Mass, Messe des orphéonisses (Gournod), Jubiliate Deo (Schütz).
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Missa, O magnom mystertum (Vinoria), Super flumina (Fulestrina), Rev D Lawson: 6 Choral E, Blow In F, Tribus miraculis (Marenzio).
ST JAMES'S, PICCADILLY: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP, ST JOHN'S, Stranford £15: 11 Family S, Sortie

HC. THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC. 11.15 MP, Responses (Thalben-Bail), To Deam (Gray), The Master. GulARDS CHAPEL, Weillington Barracis, SWI: 11 M, The Lord hath manifested forth his glory (Thalben-Bail), Omnes de Saba (Handi), The Chapiain: 12 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, 3510: 11 S Euch, Wood in the Phygian mode, Quem pastores (Rutled), Rev C. French. PERSONAL COLUMN

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God is rich in mercy, and because of his great love for us he brought us life with Christ when we were dead because of our sins; it is by grace you are saved. Ephe-sians 2: 4,5

BIRTHS

ACLAND - On 23rd December 1996, to Piers and Lucinda (née Raiman), a daughter, Alice Beatrice, a sister for

ALEXANDRE - On January 5th at The Portland Hospital to Noga and Jean-Luc - The Chokys a real chlusette CAMPBELL - On January 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Michelle and Ted, a beautiful daughter, Cheyne

paqueryn.

CARR - On 28th December
1996, to Amber (née Taylor)
and David, a beautiful
daughter, Sophia Grace
Alison.

MAMILTON - On 19th December at Westmorland General Hospital, to Mary and Graham, a beautiful daughter, Claire, a sister for Rachael

HOSES - On 16th December 1996, to Tina and Mike, a daughter, Folly Victoria. KEMP - On Monday 6th January, to Sarah-Jane (née Ward) and Mervyn, at the Edith Cavell Medical Institute, Brussels, a son, Jonathan Michael.

daughter, Amelia Cristina Emocesca

SHEPHERD - On December 27th, to Angela (ase White) and James, a son, Cuthbert James, a brother for Luke. STRICKLAND - On January 7th 1997, to Lindsey (née German) and Dominic, twins, a son, Tarquin Codric and a daughter, Florence Dorothy. a brother and Sister for Hoctor and Frederick.

ASHERBEN - On 7th January 1997, sundemly in hospital having battled coarsecously against her illness for many years. Mary Ann aged 52 years, beloved wife of Elchard and dear mother of Emma and Mark. Her braveness, good humour and indomitable spirit were admired by all. Funeral Service at Saltsbury Crematorium on Thunday, 16th January at 9 am Family flowers only but demations, if desired, to Arthrida Care Clo AH. Chester, Funeral Directors. Romsey, Hampshire.

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000 DEATHS

Marylebone Crematorium at 10.30 am. No flowers but donations if desired to RNLL and 2Care.

RNLI. and ZCare.

BELL - Ruby Kathleen (née
Bond) on 8th January in
Dunedin Hospital, Roading,
greatly loved wife, mother
and grandmother. Reading
Crematorium, 3 pm Friday
17th January. No flowers but
donations please to Cancer
Research Campaign, 6-10
Cambridge Terrate, London
NWI 41L.

all who loved her.
CHAMBERIAM - On January
7th 1997 peacefully at
home, Joan, beloved wife of
Richard, loving mother of
John, Penelope, Eodorick and
Gytha. Much loved
grandmother of james,
Margaret, Alison, Richard.
Clare, Lindsey, Pattick, Nick,
William, Tom, Ben, Sarah and
Roger, Service at Garston
Crematorium, Watford, on
Monday January 20th at Monday January 20th at 3pm. Flowers to William Beckett, 29 Junction Ecod, London N19 5QT by 12

CLEVERLY - William Prederick, on 7th January 1997, aged 87. Ex RAF, schoolmaster, artist and country man. Much Joved burband of Dorsen Betsy and father to Eogar, Jane, Philip Peter and Susan. Puneral at St Peter in Chains, Poulebot, Wills. 1.45pm 17th January. COMPINS CARR - See Carr.

Chichester died suddenly on January 9th. Funeral Tuesday 21st January 1.30pm at Chichester Crematozium. No flowers but

NW1 4JL.

BIDDURPH - John Percival on 6th January, aged 92, hasband of the late Muriel. Much loved father of Tom, Jenny, Susan. Peter and Robin, devoted gramfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at 230 pm on Friday 17th January at St. Mary's Church, Beent Eleigh, Suffolk All enquiries to WA. Deacon Funeral Services, Services, Tuneral Services, Services, Tuneral Services, Services, Tuneral Services, Services, Tuneral Services, Services

CARR - On January 9th, peacefully, Margaret (new Scott), dear wife of John Comyns Carr, loved and loring mother of Sophy and Jenny and grandmother of Late, Ben and Lottis. Funeral private, at her desire: Her memorial is in the hearts of all who loved her.

moon.

CHARLESWOWTH - Kathleen

Viviam (Kate) on 7th January
1997 aged 89 years, widow
of Francis George (Charles),
much loved mother of
Nicholas and Roger. Fumeral
Borham Crumntorium, near
Canterbury, 9 am 17th
January, Family flowers only
please.

CAUSE - Jennifer Mary on Sth January 1997 at York District Hospital, aged 68. Funeral Service at The Betreat, York, at 2 pm on Thursday, 16th January, Donations to the 2etreat, York YOI 58N.

CROSS - On January 9th Christine Stephanie, a much loved wife and mother, daughter of the late Professor E.H. Comer.

DUNCAM - On January 9th 1997 in Ipswich Hospital, Alexander Douglas aged 85 years, such loved husband of Joanna. Family funetal.

FITTON-BROWN - Professor Anthony David of Leicester loving bushand of Daphne father of Simon, Rebecca and tather of Simon, Rebecca and Edmand, grandfather of Oxfe, Dominic, Isabel and Olivia. Passed away on Wednesday 8th January 1997 aged 71 years. Funeral Service at Gilroes Crematorium, Groby Road, Leicester, on Friday 17th January at 3.45 pm. Donations if desired to Parkinsons Disease Sociaty C/o A.J. Adkinson & Son Funeral Directors, 12 London Road, Oxdby, Leicester, tek (O116) 271 2340.

GOLDE - On December 28th
1996, Virginia Hafren (nee
Woodward), wifoow of
Michael, sister of Hermions
and Eachel, page-fully in
Worcestershire. Her courses
has been an inspiration to
all who knew her. Funeral
Service at St Peter's Church,
Upper Arley, Worcestershire,
on Monday 20th january
1997 at 2.30 pm. No flowers
please but donations if
desired to L-FRUPA, York
House, 1997 west aminster
Bridge Road, London SEI
70T. Thanksgiving Service
at St Peter's Church, Upper
Arley, on Saturday 22nd
March 1997 at 2.30 pm.

GOOGER - With family and friends in the caring atmosphere of The Bast Cheshirs Hospice on 2nd fahuary 1997 Harold Kingsley aged 76 years, husband of Gianna Galizzi of Oceno (TV) Italy, son of the late Harold and Margery Goodger of Prestbury and brother of Rosalind Funeral Service at Macclesifeld Crematorium on Wednesday Gematorium on Wednesday January 15th at 11:30 am. Flowers or if preferred donations to The East Cheshire Hospice. Enquiries to J.W. Brocklehurst & Sons Ltd., Prostbury (01625) 829232.

GRISEWOOD - Harman, Man o GRISEWOOD - Harman, Man of Letters, Man of Life, died at home, suddenly but peacefully on 8th January 1997. Will be greatly missed by his devoted family and many friends. Funeral Service at St Peter and 8t Paul Church, Eye, Suffolk at noon on 20th January. KEARNEY-RYAN - Grace on December 26th peacefully at The Pines, Hove. Funeral

Plymouth, tel: (01752) 767676. MACRAE - Peacefully on January 8th 1997, Peggy aged 89 years, wife of the late Donald Fraser of Reigste, beloved mother of Sarsh, Duncan and Christina and grandmother and greatand grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Peter & St Paul,

Nutfield Thursday Jamany 16th at 11 am. Family flowers only, but domations if desired for R.N.I.B. clo Stoneman Funeral Service, Doman Court, Eedhill, RHI 6AZ.

MARTIN - On January 8th Simon, very dearly loved son of Pamela and the late Maurice, and much loved brother of Samh Funesal at St Johns Chapel, Oxford Crematorium on Friday January 17th at 2 pm Family flowers only. Donations it desired to Sobell House, Oxford.

MAYNEW - Christopher, Lord Maybew, on Jonosay 7th, late of Wimbledon. Faneral Service to be held at Christ Charch, Copse Hill, Wimbledon, on Thursday 16th January 3.30 pm. A Service of Thamksylving is to be held later in the yegr. Enquiries to FREER W. Palme, Raynes Park. Tel: (0181) 946-1974.

MITCHELLHEGGS - Winsome Wency (née Talbot Willcox) on January 2nd la St George's Hospital, London, aged 72. Darling wife of Meurice, dearly Joved mother of Caroline and grandmother. Much loved and sedly missed by all her family and friends, Service for the Lussily at Galidiord Crematorium on Tuesday january 21st at 10:30 am followed by a Memorial Service in Dunsfold Church at 12 noon. Enquiries to Robert Ayling Funeral Services, Guidford, Surrey, (01433) 567233.

ORLOFF - Marjorle Dean (Maggie), widow of Albert Charles Crieff at Iniza, died at Brendoncare Nursing Nome. Froafield, Hungeriord, on Friday 3rd January 1997 aged S5. She leaves a son Charles, Funeral will be at St Lawrence Charles, Hungerford, on Thursday 16th January 1997 at 1.30 pm, followed by creasation. All enquiries to Charles Locas and Marshall (01488) 682505. With leving memories and deep affection from her sister Joga and Charles, David and Mary.

RIX - E.I.R. (Ted), aged 87, on 10th January 1997, in Devon, formerly of Grove House, Sallindge, Pather of Martyn, Anthony and Richard and Grandfather to James, Julius, Liris, Charles, Eanne and Harriet, Service at St Mary's Church, Sellindge, Ashford, Keni at 1.30 pm on 21st January followed by burial at St Bartholamen's, Burwesh, Sussen at 3.15 pm. Flowers to F.C. Wood Punctal Directors, Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent (Teh 01233 620109).

ROBERTSON - Dr. Alan Robertson CRE peacefully on 9th January at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, W. Smaser. Dearly loved husband of Ellean and loving father of Fruil, Stuart and Alison, also devoted grandfather of Dominic, Hammah, Endly and Charite, Funeral Service on Tuesday, 14th January at St. Margaret's Church, Fernhurst at 11.30 nm. Family flowers only please. Donations If desired to Parkinsons Disease Society to GM. Loff & Pattners, 24 Lion Lane, Hastemere, Suzzey, GUZT 198.

ROCHDALE - Viscounters Ethnor persed on pencartily on 9th January 1997. Cremetion on 14th january at 3.20 pm at Cartisle Crematorium. No flowers please, any douations to The Calvert Trust, Little Crogshwatte, near Keswick, CA12 4QD.

RUSSELL - On January 6th 1997 at his home in Villanova, Pennsylvania, USA, Peter Syrom 290d 78 years, Husband of the Late joyce and father of Panela and Timothy, Donations if deshed to Imperial Canors Research Fund, Appeal Centre, Wallace House, Maxwell Fisce, Stirling SES 191.

SIMM - Ann, peacefully at home on january 5th. Will be sorely missed by her heaband Frank, daughter jane and grandchildren Christopher. Marcus and Rupen. Funeral Service to be held at Chichester Crematorium on Monday January 20th at 4 pm Romily flowers only please, donations payable to Multiple Sciencis c/o Mr NC. Hoster, J. Edwards & Son (Funeral Directors), 13 St Georges Walk, Hambledon Road, Waterlooville, Hants. PO? 7TU.

SPENCER - Iris (Olga), retired matron of Northwood and Planes Hospital, Middlesez, died peacefully on Christmas Ere aged 82. Funeral Friday January 17th 3.45 pm at Golden Green Crematorium, North London, Family Howers, Donarions to Imperial Cancer Research, Enquiries Co-op Funeral Service, tel: (0181) 444-2396.

PREVANCE - On Sth January, suddenly at home, Georgina Rosamond (Gina), much tressured muse and adored wife of Ronald Funeral Service at St James Church, Chipping Campden on Monday, 20th January at 3pm Flowers co W. Weight, Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos.

STERN - Maxwell, beloved father of Felicity and Jennifer and loving provided from the Jennifer and loving provided provided from the Jennifer and Jennifer Glesson (Jennifer and Jennifer and Jennif grandfather. Died pescefully on 9th January at Galsworthy House, Funezal at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lune, London NW11, at 12.30 pm on Monday 13th January, No flowers please but donations if desired to Nightingale House, London SW12.

STOCKEN - Ecmola, widow of Lt-Cdr. C.M. Stocken, D.S.C. R.K. and much loved mother to Nicola, Anthony and Robert, slipped away sevenely 4th January 1997. Esquiries to Lodge Bros. (01932) 785402. (01932) 785402.

STUREMAN - Shella Mary died peacefully at home on Intusdry Jammary 9th 1997 aged 87 years. Deeply missed by her sons Colin and Ivor, grandchildren Mark, Dominic, Charlotte and James and greatgrandchildren. Private crometion. No Govers but grandchildren. Private crossrien. No flowers but donations if desired to Heart of East Hospites of Viness, 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU. Memorial Service midday March 21st 1997 et Ash Parish Church, Kent. Colontul dress.

Parish Church, Rent. Colourful dress.

YABOR - Joan, suddenly on 29th December in Falo Alto, California, where the was spending the Christmas holidays with her sons Fullip and John, their wives and other relatives.

Cremation and memorial service were in California.

WENTWORTH-GRENT - Albert, MAR, ERD, on Sth Brusery, aged 93 years. Hashand of Anna (née Busuttil) and formerly of Eas (née Dennis), inthest of Philippa, Geogram and Jessica. Grent-grandfather of Philippa, Geogram and Jessica. Grent-grandfather of Anna. His fument service is to be beld at 1.45 pm on Tuesday, January 21st at Loughborough Crematonium Chapal. Family flowers only plesse, donations would be appreciated for (and cheques payable to):

Derbyshive House, East Leake, co G. Gamble & Sons (Quorn) Ltd., Funeral Disectors, 101 Meeting Street, Quorn. Leicestembre, LE12 SAQ, telephone: (01509) 415415.

(01509) 415415.

WOOD - Norah Joan (née Cowper) suddenly on Jamuary Sth aged 82, widow of Brigadier Robert East! Perceval Wood, mother of Yerina, Tim and Michael. Fubraid on 17th Jamuary at 2pm, Holy Trinsty, Leveswock Green. Family flowars only, domations to Royal Tank Regiment Benevolent Fund c/o J. Worley, tel: (01442) 253465. MEMORIAL SERVICES

Elizabeth Hill A Memorial Service will be held at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Ennismore Gardens, 26th January at 12,30 pm. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM —

MCHOLS - Peter, died January 11th, 1989. Remembered today by his widow Recia the citizens of Bracciano and his former colleagues and friends in both Italy and brigate.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OBITUARIES

HARMAN GRISEWOOD

Harman Grisewood, CBE, a former Controller of the Third Programme and Chief Assistant to the Director-General of the BBC, 1955-64, died on January 8 aged 90. He was been on February 8, 1906.

arman Grisewood, a cousin of the probably better. known broadcaster, Freddie Grisewood of Any Questions? fame, began his own broadcasting career by reading ex-cerpts from Waiter Scott for Children's Hour. He subsequently became the right-hand man to two successive, and contrasting, directors general.

As much as anyone below the highest ranks of the BBC, he helped to shape the future of British broadcasting after the war. He was in at the birth of the Third Programme, was its second Controller and later, under the title of Director of the Spoken Word, occupied one of the most absurdsounding, if influential, posts within the BBC. When television increased in importance he served as the main channel of communication between the politicians and the broadcasters and was at the centre of the battle between Eden and the BBC at the time of Suez.

Harman Joseph Gerard Grisewood was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Harman Grisewood of the 4th Hussars and owner of a 13th-century house in Oxfordshire. The family background, however, was less traditional than this might suggest. His mother was de-- scended from an ancient Mediterranean family, with roots in Naples, Sicily and Malta and, like her husband, was a devout Roman Catholic. The family chapel, where Grisewood acted as server throughout his boyhood, was the centre of the household, and he remained a deeply religious man throughout his life.

He was educated at Appleforth and . won a history scholarship to Worcester won a misury statement of the was, College, Oxford. At university he was, at best, a casual scholar. When asked about his academic record he would reply: "I was an OUDS man." He - played the lead in productions of Henry IV and King Lear and his beautiful speaking voice was responsible for his introduction to broadcasting.

Invited, while in his first job working at Fortnum & Mason in Piccadilly, tovisit the BBC's old radio studios at Savoy Hill, he was told that somebody was needed immediately for Children's Hour. He was given a copy of Ivanhoe, a red light went on, he read for a while, a hand waved languidly and he stopped. He was handed three guineas in an envelope and, having been given hopes of further employment, resigned from Formum & Mason the next day. Apart from a short period helping his father in an unsuecessful housing project in Cyprus, and a temporary resignation in 1947, he was a BBC man for the next 35 years.



After Children's Hour he graduated to serious acting, appearing in the BBC Rep with players of the stature of John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft. Then he became an announcer before promotion to programme

The BBC was more flexible in those days and when Pius XI died in 1939 Grisewood, as an Italian-speaking Catholic, was dispatched to Rome to cover the papal election. Cardinal Hinsley, an old friend, introduced Grisewood to the conclave as his "bedmaker" which gave him an advantage over his rivals. But when he emerged from the broadcasting cubicle marked "UK" a Vatican engineer informed him that in fact he had been connected to a circuit for Bulgaria. Nobody in Britain heard a word.

He spent the war at Bush House as assistant to Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, the Controller of European Services, fighting the propaganda war against the enemy on the Continent and fighting the departmental war againt the Political Warfage Executive at Woburn Abbey. Pessimistic about his postwar prospects, and disappointed at not having been made head of European Services, he left the corporation in 1947 but was shortly afterwards persuaded to return as planner for the exciting new Third Programme and as assistant to its first Controller, Sir George Barnes. When Barnes was promoted Grisewood succeeded him. He followed Barnes again in the splendidly old-fashioned role of Director of the Spoken Word. His responsibilities here included news, religion, talks and

Then, in 1955, he was appointed chief assistant to the Director-General, then Sir Ian Jacob (though he continued under Sir Hugh Greene), having to bear the increasing pressures which political parties were placing on the BBC as the importance of broadcasting, particularly television, became more and more appreciated.

The most difficult time was Suez. The Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, believed that the operation was a national commitment and should not be questioned. The broadcasters' view was that it was not a national war, as in 1914 or 1939, and that it was their duty to report any opinions which were important enough to affect the outcome. Grisewood always maintained

that throughout the whole affair, from July to November 1956, Eden's aim was secrecy and the BBC's was enlightenment. His opinion naturally found no favour at No 10. In his autobiography One Thing at a Time (1968) he even claimed to have been told by William Clark, Eden's press secretary, that the BBC's policy had led the Prime Minister to to ask the Lord Chancellor. Lord Kilmuir, to prepare a legal instrument to take it over. This dramatic tale was subsequently challenged - and though Grisewood certainly told the story in good faith, it seems that Clark (who resigned from his post at No 10 the moment the Suez operation was halted) may have piled things on a bit - a habit to which he was not a total stranger.

An equally contentious - though this time totally authenticated - episode occurred over whether Hugh Gaitskell, the Leader of the Opposition, could be allowed a reply to a ministerial broadcast delivered by Eden. The two major parties disagreed as to whether the Prime Minister's broadcast had been sufficiently controversial. To Labour the right of reply seemed simple justice. To the Government it appeared as a stab-in-the-back to British troops, by now landed in Port Said. With the Director-General Sir lan Jacob away in Australia, it fell largely to Grisewood to interpret the BBC's rules in favour of Gaitskell being granted the right of reply.

But he did so in such a bureaucratic manner - insisting that the proper procedures were followed (even though Gaitskell wanted to broadcast the very next night) - that he caused the Leader of the Opposition great anger. Paradoxically, as things worked out, Gaitskell would probably have been better off had he been kept off the screen: though eloquent, his TV address proved to be a grave political mistake. All it achieved was to reunite the ranks of the Conservative Party. In a moment of astonishing naivety Gaitskell appealed to all the anti-Suez Tory dissidents to join the Labour Party in getting rid of the Prime Minister thus ensuring that no such thing could immediately occur.

Having successfully seen through the not alogether easy transition between Sir Ian Jacob and Sir Hugh Greene, Grisewood retired from the BBC in 1964 (he had been appointed CBE in 1960). He then worked briefly on The Times, then under the editorship of his old BBC chief, Sir William

After leaving the BBC he served on various official bodies, including the Younger Committee on Privacy and the Lord Chancellor's Committee on Defamation. In retirement in Suffolk he wrote, in addition to his autobiography, two undistinguished novels.

He is survived by his wife, from whom he was separated, and by their

appear until 1968.

and Fred Astaire, did not

After that triumph, more

films followed for Lane. Royal

Wedding (1951), to his delight,

gave him a chance to work

with Alan Jay Lerner. They

jointly received an Oscar for

their Too Late Now in that

habit of disappearing for days

in the middle of work, Lane

teamed up with him again in

1965 for On a Clear Day You

Can See Forever, a musical

about a young woman with

extrasensory perception. The

musical was not such a suc-

cess as Finian's Rainbow but

the title song was much ad-

That was Lane's last big hit,

though he continued to hope

for a Broadway comeback.

Some were included on an

album he recorded with Mich-

ael Feinstein (Ira Gershwin's

old musical secretary), which

mired.

Despite Lerner's alarming

JOAN KNIGHT

Joan Knight, OBE. theatrical director and former artistic administrator of Perth Repertory Theatre, died on December 20 aged 72. She was born on September 27, 1924.

ONE of Scotland's most energetic theatrical directors, Joan Knight will always have her name linked with the Perth Repertory Theatre, which she ran with a sort of benign dictatorship from 1968 to 1992. It is probably true to say that Perth would not now have an acclaimed theatre if it had not been for her tireless commit-

Joan Mary Knight was born into an untheatrical family in Preston, Lancashire, and left school at the age of 15 to take on a rather dull job in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the war she worked in the Women's Land Army. She was introduced to theatre through the local amateur dramatic society, where she is best remembered for a remarkable production of Christopher Fry's The Lady's Not For Burning. The society at the time was more used to drawing-room comedies and the occasional Noël Coward.

She next attended the Bristol Old Vic School for an administrative course, after which she was engaged in stage management until given an opportunity to direct coincidentally at Perth - in

the early 1950s. She spent the next few years either directing in or helping to save a succession of theatres whose financial position was perilous. She worked in Whitby, Keswick and various Midlands towns until she became artistic director of the Castle Theatre, Farnham, for four years, ran the Ludlow Festival for three years and was director of productions at Pitlochry.

When she was given the job as artistic director of the Perth Rep in 1968 the theatre was in crisis. Audiences were poor, the choice of plays unimaginative and the finances dire. Thanks to her, today the Perth Rep has been enlarged and refurbished, a rehearsal room built and a decent restaurant

created. But it was in her choice of plays, writers and directors that her eye was seen to best effect. She encouraged young directors to join her as an assistant in Scotland. These included Clive Perry (at Farnhamj, Mike Ockrent, Patrick Sandford (now at Southampton). Ken Alexander (the Byre Theatre St Andrew's) and Andrew McKinnon (her successor at Perth).

She was always keen to



work with young actors (she directed the young Michael Crawford at the Royal Court in 1963). She came to London for Equity meetings (she was a member of its council for many years) and directed several revivals of The Mousetrap for Sir Peter Saunders. She was offered positions with both the Royal Court and the National Theatre which she refused to take up - the latter much to Lord Olivier's consternation. "I have given my word to the directors in Perth and, besides, perhaps a career in London, with all those egos, might have turned me into someone not quite as nice to know," she commented. Of her many productions in she produced, directed and oversaw Peace Child. It was her brainchild and an administrative challenge. One hundred childen from 12 countries invaded Perth and rehearsed for a fortnight and performed just nine times (all sold out immediately). The children (teenagers from Jordan and Israel stood next to each other on the stage) were lodged in local homes and the production was a triumph not only for Knight's theatrical flair but also for her ability to get things done with a minimum of fuss and through sheer force of personality. As a result of this venture Perth was voted

Perth three stand out. In 1991

Top Twin Town of 1991. In 1985 she directed Rikki Fulton and Denise Coffey's A Wee Touch of Class (an adaptation of Molière's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme) which with them in the lead roles broke box-office records in Perth before becoming a star attraction of the Edinburgh Festival. It is due to be revived at the Pitlochry Festival.

Her last production at Perth was Shadowlands, the tearjerker about C.S. Lewis, based on his book Surprised by Joy. To grace her swansong to the theatre she had guided for so many years, she had assembled a distingusihed Scorttish cast.

After her retirement she continued to direct, not least a production of James Bridie's Mr Bolfry in Russia. Her final production — its last stages overseen by Clive Perry — was of that play (it opened when she was in hospital) at last year's Pitlochry Festival.

Knight loved people, especially children. Her infectious laugh could break the ice of the most tense moments at rehearsal and she had an enduring ability to entertain and enjoy her guests' com-pany. She was appointed OBE in 1985 - a true Lilian Baylis of the North.

Joan Knight never married.

in the local customs and sent

CANON JOHN CORNWALL

Canon John Cornwall, mission priest, died on December 31 aged 96. He was born on April 24, 1900.

JOHN CORNWALL was one of the last old-style English missionaries, whose role in 20th-century Africa was to lay the religious and educational bases upon which Africans could then build and develop their own Christian churches and schools. He brought to his missionary work in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) a sense of duty and discipline which stemmed partly from a decade spent in the Royal Artillery in the 1920s. But his work as a priest was also characterised by an infectious sense of life as

an adventure. This was shown during his military career when in 1928 as a trainee surveyor - he agreed to form part of a small expedition sent out by the Royal Geographical Society to East Africa to chart and map the region of the Kalambo Falls.

John Whitmore Cornwall was born in a rambling vicarage in Thornbury near the banks of the Severn. His father Alan Whitmore Cornwall - sometime Archdeacon of Cheltenham — noted in his diary on the day of his birth "cuckoo" and, as an afterthought, "second son, fifth

child, born". He was rather a timid child, whose schooling at the parsons' sons' school of St John's. Leatherhead, was not a very happy experience. With the outbreak of the First World War he determined to follow his brother Alan and become a soldier. He trained at the Royal

years that could compare to what George Gershwin threw Military Academy, Woolwich, gained a commission, and his away," he recently sold. He is survived by his second first posting in 1919 was to the wife Lynn, a daughter from 2nd Brigade (Royal Field Artillery) in Ireland. Although he deliberately chose this as

"good hunting country", his service there, during the civil war, had its dangers. At one point he formed part of a unit set up to try to ambush Michael Collins. In 1922 the 2nd Brigade's title was transferred to a brigade in India.

In 1926 he joined the Survey Company of the Royal Artillery on Salisbury Plain and it was with this experience under his helt that he was chosen in 1928 to join a Royal Geographical Society expedition to East Africa.

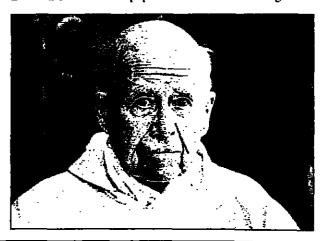
Cornwall had already decided to resign his commission in order to train for the priesthood, and he now resolved to follow his sister Frances, who had joined the Universities Mission to Central Africa (UMCA). He trained at Cuddesdon and, after a curacy in Streatham, he was sent by UMCA to Masasi, Tanganyika.

Cornwall immediately fell under the firm but gentle guidance of Vincent Lucas, first Bishop of Masasi. In contrast to missionaries of an earlier period, Lucas was highly sensitive to African local customs and he was a pioneer in Christianising the initiation rites of the local tribes in this part of Africa. Lucas instructed his new pupil

him out on a bicycle to inspect schools and take services around the vast diocese. He also accompanied him on many safaris to map the diocese (the previous German maps had proved inaccurate). Fluent in Swahili, Cornwall was to stay 21 years at Masasi, acting as priest-in-charge of parishes extending for fifty miles, administering the cathedral and serving at times as headmaster of St Joseph's College, Chidya.

He brought his missionary zeal back to England in 1955 when he married Benita West, who had served as a UMCA missionary in Masasi from 1950. Together at Minchin-hampton from 1959 to 1972, they built up a parish life which was acknowledged as a model of spirituality and enthusiasm throughout the Gloucester diocese. The rectory there was "open house" to all. In 1969 he was made an

honorary canon of Gloucester. Retiring in 1972, he remained a tireless assistant priest in Stroud until his 96th year. He was also a fine watercolour artist and his best works were landscapes painted during his time in Africa. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.



BURTON LANE

Burton Lane, Broadway and Hollywood composer, died on January 5 aged 84. He was born on February 2, 1912.

BURTON LANE was one of the neglected songwriters of his generation. Friend to George Gershwin, discoverer of Judy Garland, he also wrote such haunting Broadway melodies as On a Clear Day You. Can See Forever and How Are Things in Glocca Morra?

Lyricists of the calibre of Yip Harburg, Alan Jay Lerner, Frank Loesser and Ira Gershwin queued up to work with him, and appreciated the consistency of his work. Theatre lights on Broadway were dimmed at the news of his death. But the sad truth was that for many years his contribution to popular musical theatre had been overfooked.

Burton Lane was born Burton Levy, the son of a New York real estate agent and a piano-playing mother. He left school at 15 to join composers in Tire Pan Alley. It was George Gershwin Who nurtured his potential.

His family was spending a holiday in Atlantic City, and stayed in a modest boarding. house which boasted a piano. Lane was working out a showy version of his favourite Gershwin time — Swonderful - when by coincidence he was overheard by Rose Gersh- My Heart over and over again

win, George and Ira's mother. Rose took him to meet George, and Lane stunned the composer with his new arrangement. After that, Gershwin benevolently sought out teachers for the boy. Lane's first tunes to be performed in public were in the 1930 revue Three's a In 1933 Lane made the trip

to Hollywood. Again by ex-treme good fortune he found himself at the right dinner party two days after arriving, and the following morning was invited to David O. Selznick's office to try out a few songs. Joan Crawford, who was looking for a new ballad for Dancing Lady, was also called in and immediately loved Lane's Everything I Have Is Yours. This — Lane's first film song - was nominated for an Oscar that year. After this promising start, work for Paramount during the 1930s became an ordeal for Lane.

But there were lighter mo-ments, one in 1934 when he discovered an H-year-old named Frances Gumm singing with her sisters between pictures in an obscure downlown movie theatre. Baby Gumm (as Judy Garland was then professionally known) was belting numbers out, and Lane could not believe what he was hearing. The following day he arranged to have her auditioned at MGM, and she sang Zing Went the Strings of



for ten hours, while a stream of stunned music executives were called in. Garland maintained that she owed Lane 'everything".

Lane shuttled to and from Broadway writing the music for Al Joison's last stage musical Hold on to Your Hats (1939) and for Garland in Babes on Broadway in 1941. I like New York in June, How about You?, with lyrics by Ralph Freed, was Garland's showstopper in that production and was later recorded by Frank Sinatra.

In 1947 Lane teamed up with the lyricist Yip Harburg for Finian's Rainbow, based

on an unlikely story about a leprechaun and a bigoted Southern senator, which ran on Broadway for 725 performances. How are Things in liked Lane's slightly avantgarde style. Because Harburg was blacklisted, the film ver-

helped to rekindle interest in Glocca Morra? (a tune which, his music in 1990. Modesty ironically. Harburg had to was probably his greatest persuade Lane was good professional handicap. Lane enough to be included), benever considered himself in the same league as Gershwin. came an instant radio favourite, recorded by Bing Crosby. Ol' Devil Moon, from the Cole Porter or Irving Berlin. There haven't been four bars same show, achieved popularof music created in the last 15 ity more slowly, though it was quickly taken up by jazz musicians who had always

> his first marriage, and three stepdaughters.

JAMESON'S RIDE.

But I'm going, boys, all the same.
Do they think me a Burgher's baby,
To be scared by a scolding name?

"Let lawyers and statesmen addle Their pates over points of law: If sound be our sword, and saddle,

There are girls in the gold-reef city,
There are mothers and children too!
And they cry, 'Hurry up! for pity!'
So what can a brave man do?
If even we win, they'll blame us:
If we fail, they will how! and hiss.
But there's many a man lives famous
For daring a wrong like this!

"So we forded and galloped forward,
As hard as our beasts could pelt,
First eastward: then trending norward,

ON THIS DAY

January 11, 1896

The Jameson Raid against the Boers was a humiliating fiasco. However, 10 mark it The Times paid £25 to the worst Poet Laureate for his worst poem: its jingoism appealed to the public and there were calls for reprints — even requests that it be set to music.

Right over the rolling veldt; Till we came on the Burghers lying In a hollow with hills behind. And their bullets came hissing, flying,

Like hail on an Arctic wind! "Right sweet is the marksman's rante, And sweeter the cannon's roar.

But 'tis bitterly bad to battle, Beleaguered, and one to four.
I can tell you, it wasn't a trille To swarm over Krugersdorp glen. As they plied us with round and rifle, And ploughed us, again - and again. Then we made for the gold-reef city,
Retreating, but not in rout.
They had called to us 'Quick! for pity!'
And He said, 'They will sally out.
They will hear us and come. Who doubts it?'
But how if they don't, what then? Well, worry no more about it, But fight to the death, like men.

VII. "Not a soul had or supped or slumbered Since the Borderland stream was cleft; But we fought, ever more outnumbered, Till we had not a cartridge left.

We're not very soft or tender, Or given to weep for woe, But it breaks one to have to render One's sword to the strongest foe.

VIII. "I suppose we were wrong, were madmen, Still I think at the Judgment Day, When God sifts the good from the had men. There'll be something more to say. We were wrong, but we aren't half sorry.

And, as one of the baffled band.

would rather have had that foray Than the crushings of all the Rand." ALFRED AUSTIN Swinford Old Manor, Jan 9.

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Il Parmigianino, painter, Parma, Italy, 1503; Alexander Hamilton, American statesman, Nevis. West Indies, 1755; Sir Charles Hastings, physician, founder of the British Medical Association, Ludlow, 1794; Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada 1867-73 and 1878-91. Glasgow, 1815; William James; psychologist, New York, 1842; George Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India 1898-1905, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, 1859; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, Ripon, Wisconsin, 1864; Alan Stewart Paton writer. Pietermaritz-

burg, 1903. DEATHS: Domenico Ghirlandajo, historian, London. 1494: Cardinal Pedro Gonzalez de Mendoza, prelate and

collector, London, 1753; Louis François Roubiliac, sculptor, London, 1762; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Venice, 1801; Friedrich von Schlegel, philosopher and historian, Dresden, 1829; Francis Scott Key, poet, Baltimore, 1843; Georges Eugene Haussmann, architect who replanned Paris. Paris, 1891; Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet, Dorchester. 1928: Caradoc Evans, writer, Aberystwyth, 1945; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1963; Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Prime Minister of India 1964-66, Tashkent, 1966; Alberto Giacometti, sculptor, Chur, Switzerland, 1966; Richmal Crompton, author, 1969; Padraic Colum, poet, Enfield,

statesman, Spain, 1495; Sir

Hans Sloane, physician and

Charing Cross station was opened, London, 1864. Insulin first used successfully in the treatment of diabetes, King Zog of Albania was dethroned, 1946.

The Open University awarded its first degrees, 1973. TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Jean Bapust van Helmont, chemist, Brussels, 1580; John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, Groton, Suffolk, 1588; Lazaro Spallanzani, chemist, Modena, Italy, 1729; Edmund Burke, statesman. Dublin, 1729: Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, portrait paint-er, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Oman, historian, Muzaifar-pur, India, 1860, Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876;

Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, Budapest, 1878; Curbastron Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, Italy, 1883; Hermann Goering, Nazi war criminal, Bavaria, 1893; Georges Carpentier, boxer, Calais,

sion, starring Petula Clark

DEATHS: Luca Giordano, painter, Naples, 1705; George Froster, explorer, Paris, 1794; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Bath, 1897; Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1976. The British-Zulu War began,

1879. The London Co-op opened the first supermarket in London at Manor Park, 1948. A Boeing 747 (jumbo) jet landed at Heathrow airport

after its maiden transatlantic

flight from New York, 1970.

"Wrong! Is it wrong? Well, may be:

They may argue, and prate, and order.

Go, tell them to save their breath:
Then, over the Transyaal border. And gallop for life or death! II.

And gun-gear, who cares one straw? When men of our own blood pray us To ride to their kinsfolk's aid, Not Heaven itself shall stay us From the rescue they call a raid.

NEWS

£200 plan for pet passports

Pets could soon accompany their owners on holiday abroad under government proposals to relax the world's toughest quarantine rules with a £200 rabies check.

The new control would apply only to animals travelling from "isolated, rabies-free countries" and they would have to be fitted with a microchip proving that they had been vaccinated Page 1

Minister condemns 'begging Scots'

■ David Maclean, the Home Office Minister, caused a storm when he declared that most beggars were Scots and that they were on the streets through choice. Mr Maclean, the rightwing Scots-born MP for Penrith and the Border, said there was no justification for begging ..

Archbishop's praise

The Archbishop of York has praised Britain's achievements and urged the country to focus onPages L 2 its successes

Patient 'was chained'

The Prison Service launched an inquiry into why a man was chained to his bed by his leg and arms until three hours before he died in a hospice Page 1

Opera economy

The Royal Opera House says it may be forced to scrap its reducedprice matinee performances for schools because it cannot afford . Page 3

Shipwreck success

It was dawning on Tony Bullimore that getting shipwrecked was the most fortuitous mistake he had ever made....

... Page 5 Paedophile expelled

A paedophile was moved after demonstrators besieged the hostel

Thousands of Islamic militants in

the autonomous West Bank city of Nablus staged a rally and demanded another "big attack" where he was staying Page 7 against Jewish targets Page 20

Population slow-down

World population growth is slowing for the first time, excluding the

Black Death and the Great War

John Major. speaking in India.

gave his clearest indications vet

that he is aiming to call a general election on May 1 Pages 2, 15

Europe's future central bank laid

down a tough German-style ap-

proach to ensuring the purity of

the single currency..... Page 18

Turkey renewed its threat to

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Election hint

Tough bank

Turkish threat

Arab threat

Top and bottom of picking the lottery

■ One of the great mysteries of modern life has been resolved by two academics: how people choose their lottery numbers. The dominant influence is the design of the lottery form. The most popular numbers are near the centre and those with least appeal are on the edges and bottom.

NATTUIRIE NOITES Maggiepies (Tendencia thatcheritis) These thieving corvidae are attracted by the glittering property of others. Displaying a pronounced right wing bias, they fly in ever-decreasing circles, eventually disappearing up their own manifesto.

OPINION

Gas and gaiters: Although politicians might be tempted to remind the Church that there should be a strict demarcation between God's dominion and Caesar's the border is porousPage 23 Asian battlefronts: The huge task of overhauling South Korea's superannuated economic model will be harder still if its mishandling of labour reforms embitters the

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tournament

Robson.

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Tennis: Tim Henman defeat-

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the final of the Sydney

Footbalk Newcastle United

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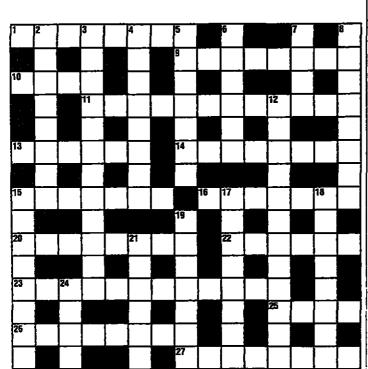


Books: The bestsellers for bookworms TV: Critical guide 23-50 Food: Tried and tested 4-6 What's on:..

4

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,374

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street. London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.



DOWN

fine for trespass (8).

in CS vehicle (b).

ю send message (S).

mains. perhaps (8).

round at last (\$).

pulled up short (6).

24 Underground TV (4).

jack? (7).

Become successful in satire (4-3).

pottery (4). 8 Sort found carrying drug allowed

12 Words of praise reviewing car magazine — good inside (7.5).
 15 Almost fish around faulty power

Type of ring suitable for all ages

18 Mule thrashed with it comes

19 Queen, we hope, will be good enough for such tricks involving

21 Crude language from pickpocket

Solution to Puzzle No 20.373

- 1 Forbid member plucky player (8). 9 Such parents had no conception
- of the issue involved (8). 10 Mulled cordial (4). 11 Deal with cash, after split with former partner (4-8).
- 13 Write about a male and a female bird (6). 14 Dismiss a method to start making
- speech (4.4). 15 Some importing that French type
- of flooring (7). 16 Flow of quiz restricted by huzzer - two hands needed for it (7).
- 20 He was arrested as a juvenile 22 A fraction of some freight hauled
- 23 I'd need a stick. I feel, to sort out lower stream! (5-7).
- 25 Just open a pint (4). 26 The men in this study are
- unnaturally well-built (S). 27 Heavy ref stirred up perennial complaint (3.5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,368

We regret that this year The Times will not run the annual Crossword Championship.

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TODAY Sun sets 4 15 pm 9ಬಾಣಹಣ ಕಿಸುಪ್ Micon rises Moon sets 7 46 pm First swarter January 15

2 Article supporting a number of nationalists about a hateful thing 3 Dishonestly take a position as head waiter (4,3.5). TOMORROW Gang overwhelmed by savage Sun rises Moon sets Moon rises 6 Hoggish male going about ninety First muster January 15 7 Learner in class used to make

> **HIGH TIDES** PM 15.26 14.42 21.00 12.24 19.35 12.20 12.49 19.96 14.04 15.21

> 13 13 HIGHEST & LOWEST Hieland day terre. Et Mery's listes di a way wampa at Mary a takea of week day mood Kenley south a highest rainfall St Mary's a highest sunathine Kinlass.

> > NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

General: England and Wales will be generally cloudy. Rain or drizzle in the west will extend eastwards to all NE England: cloudy with sleet or snow, turning to rain from west. Wind light to moderate, southeasterly. Mex

parts, with sleet or snow for a time, especially over higher ground where there could be appreciable falls in places. It will turn misty, with widespread hill fog.
Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with rain spreading from the west. The rain will be heavy in the west, with further falls of snow over

DM2.6635...

light to moderate, southeasterly. Mex 3-5C (37-41F).

Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: sleet soon turning to rain on all but the highest ground. Winds fresh, locally strong, southerly. Milder, max 6-8C (43-46F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland; Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: sleet and snow spreading from west, turning to rain at all but the highest levels. Wind fresh, south or southeast. Less cold, max 5-7C (41-45F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: the higher ground. The rain will become light and patchy later with a good deal of mist and hill fog. Central S England, E Midlands, E ☐ NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with sleet or snow turning to-rain and slow to clear. Wind south-

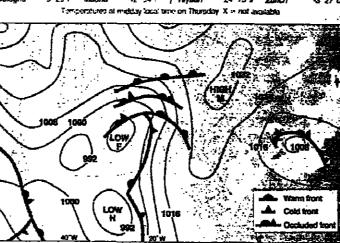
England, Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy but mostly dry. Wind light, southeasterly. Rather cold, max 3C (37F). east, fresh to strong. Max 4-5C (39-41F). Outlook: blustery winds in the north and west, most parts milder.

☐ W Midlands, Wales, NW England, L District, Cent N England,

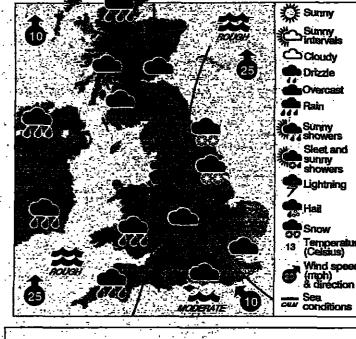
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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Vancie
Vancie Methoda Method



Changes to chart from noon: low F will track towards leeland and fill; low H will ke



Coliseum row: The lotter

bonanza is over. English

National Opera's bad luck

is to arrive too late at the

trough. All the grub has

been gobbled Page 21

Clown prince: The Rus-

sian clown Slava Polumin

displays his virtuosity in a

new West End entertain-

ment. Snowshow... Page 21.

Strindberg: Three late

plays have been put to-

gether by the GatePage 21

Triumph: The conductor

Antonio Pappano made a

big impression in his LSO

debut Page 21



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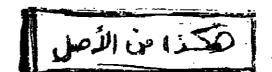
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TIMES



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EXECUTIVE VOICE

Tony Reeves and a blind date that could end in tears **PAGE 28**

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WORKING WEEK

Egan aiming for a smooth landing **PAGE 29**



SPORT

Henman on high after victory over Ivanisevic **PAGES 46-52**

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS OF SPENCER** HOUSE

PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Shares bonanza for Halifax members

By Marianne Curphey AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE 8.5 million members of the Halifax Building Society will receive free shares worth an average £1,290 and a maximum £6,215 when the society floats on the stock market in June, becoming the UK's fifth largest bank. The highly complex process is the biggest conversion ever

undertaken and will cost the society £413 million, or £46 for every borrower or saver. The average payment to each member is 23 per cent more than analysts originally predicted, reflecting the recov-

ery in the housing market and the favourable reception from the City. Halifax has 2.1 million investing members and two million borrowing members who will receive the minimum basic distribution of 200 free shares; worth beween £780 and £900, dependng on market conditions at the time of the first time of the float. Packs with conversion and voting details should reach members by post by January 22.

Investors with balances higher than £1,000 may qualify for an extra variable distribution. worth a maximum of between £4.606 and £5.315. To qualify for the variable shareout, members must have had a total balance of between El.000 and E50,000 in share accounts at midnight on November 25, 1994, and midnight on February 24, 1997. Amounts above £50,000 will not be taken into account and the distribution will be calculated

"For Halifax members who are both investors and borrowers, the maximum payout and £6,215, comprising 1,181 savings shares and 200 borrowing shares. Shares will be priced at between 390p and 450p. giving Halifax a market value of between £10.4 billion and £12 billion. A mid-price of 420p a share would give an average basic distribution of £840 and value the society at £11.2 billion. Halifax becomes

FTSE 100 4058.6 (-30.4)
Yield 3.84%
FTSE AB share 1996.91 (-11.24)
Niglogi 7703.55 (-770.22)
New York

Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, yesterday with the transfer document detailing the free share distribution

the fifth largest bank after Lloyds TSB (worth £24 billion) HSBC (£229 billion), Barclays (El6.3 billion) and NatWest Bank (£12.7 billion). Of the 8.5 million qualifying members, 46 million will receive both tions if they have at least £1,000 in their account on the two dates. The payment will be based on one share for every £50 in their account. If the lower total balance is less than £1,000 on either of the two qualifying dates, they will

receive only the basic distribution. Other members not allowed

to vote — including those aged under 18 on February 24, 1997.

and those with less than £100

in accounts on December 31.

DISTRIBUTION of the Halifax conversion documents will be the biggest single mailing handled by Royal Maif and will cost the Halifax up to £20 million. It involves 13 mailing houses and eight printing companies, approximately 60 per cent of the printing capacity of the UK. The 172-page document has used 5,000 tons of paper and will be delivered by 60 lorries (one every 25 minutes) non-stop over eight days. Members can vote by post or at a special meeting at Sheffield Arena on February 24.

1996 - will receive a statutory cash bonus of about 9.4 per cent of the total held in their accounts on the latter date.

The Halifax, Woolwich, Alhance & Leicester and Northern Rock societies all plan to convert to banks this year, resulting in £20 billion worth of windfalls to 15 million people. Some economists say this flood of new money pour-

mutualising. This technicality removes its five-year protec-tion from hostile bids but enables it to use its capital Last month concerns were

raised that new shareholders holdings drop if Halifax's entry into the FT-SE 100 index was delayed. The FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee, which reviews the index, has expressed concern that the lack of an institutional placing could distort the market and may seek to delay the process by up to three weeks. That could depress the value of shares.

Tempus, page 30 Vote now, page 31

£841m charge

BY OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH GAS will take exceptional charges of £841 million in the run-up to its demerger. Documents sent yesterday to its L7 million shareholders disclose details of additional restructuring costs that will also affect Centrica, the newly created trading arm. British Gas has made provisions of £500 million for sever-

ance payments, writedowns on properties and other demerger costs in the results for the three months to December 3L Some £93 million of these costs are charged to the Centrica results for the nine months to September 30. According to these pro forma results, the company incurred

a loss of £452 million.

British Gas has also been burdened by a £341 million loss in respect of take-or-pay contract renegotiations with BP and Mobil. In the first total evaluation of outstanding contracts, the group yesterday said they were worth £26 billion.

The much-criticised British Gas long-term incentive scheme will also undergo a demerger. Directors who move either to Centrica or BG, the production and exploration arm, will see current share options converted into options to buy their new

employers' shares. The value of the options will remain the same even though the new companies will have much smaller market capitali-sations. Shareholders are being asked to approve the demerger and new option schemes at an extraordinary meeting on February 12.

Sir Michael Perry, former Unilever chairman, will become chairman of Centrica on July 1, after the resignation of Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman. Sir Michael is a non-executive director of British Gas and will be Mr Giordano's deputy until July.

British Gas takes Argos shares dive after warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Argos, the high street retailer, plunged 15 per cent yesterday after it shocked the City with a warning that expectations for profits were

ing into the economy could

trigger an interest rate rise. The Halifax conversion will

only go ahead if at least 3.4

million savers, and more than

half of all borrowers who vote,

vote in favour of conversion.

The Halifax needs a higher voter response than other con-

verting societies because it is

being taken over by a subsid-

iary company rather than de-

The warning was taken as further evidence that Christmas was less joyous in Brit-ain's high streets than retailers had hoped.

The company said that pretax profit for the year ended December 28 was unlikely to beat the lowest forecasts of £140 million. But it said they would be significantly ahead of last year's profit of £124.4 million. Analysts slashed their

forecasts from as high as £152 million to around £138 million. Argos shares closed at 623p, down 110p. They were last at this level early last year and then climbed to a peak of

7872p in October. In the 35 days up to and including Christmas Eve, likefor-like sales were ahead 4 per Tempus, page 30 | cent. For the year to December

28, like-for-like growth was just over 6 per cent ahead. The growth slowdown came as a big surprise because Argos began its year strongly, with sales in the first eight months per cent ahead.

Argos's warning backed up the feeling that the massmarket retailers had a slower than expected Christmas. while more upmarket retailers enjoyed better fortunes.

Trading figures from Sig-net, the jewellery retailer, pro-vided further evidence. Its upmarket Ernest Jones chain saw a 9.7 per cent improvement in sales around Christmas, while H Samuel, its mass-market chain, had sales ahead just 2.5 per cent.

James McAdam, chairman of the former Ratners group, said that diamond sales had been particularly strong this Christmas, but watch sales had been disappointing.

Former NatWest subsidiary sued

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

A FORMER business associate of Sir Michael Sanberg, former chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and of Sir Ralph Halpern, former chairman of the Burton Group, is suing Solbank, NatWest's Spanish subsidiary until last year, for £250 million.

The two advised Arthur Oakes, managing director of Foothill, in his attempt to buy Digsa, the troubled Spanish supermarket chain, from Ashley, the UK food-to-blinds retailer for £55 million in 1993. The three held talks with NatWest. Unigro, another Spanish retailer.

Ashley's principle banker, after which Mr Oakes signed an irrevocable contract to purchase Digsa in April.

Mr Oakes Digsa in April.

Mr Oakes has alleged that a week before completion, Solbank, formerly Banco NatWest Espana, which had a £10 million unsecured loan to Digsa, threatened to liquidate the company unless £25 mil-tion of security was paid. This breached the purchase contract, and was tantamount to commercial blackmail, the writ

In an attempt to refinance Digsa, Mr Oakes entered into merger talks with

Mr Oakes alleges that under instruction from NatWest, Solbank leaked confidential financial information about Digsa to Unigro and negotiated its sale to

Unigro behind Foothill's back. As a result of this, the writ states, Digsa's workforce saw their salvation in Solbank and became unmanageable. At one point Mr Oakes was advised by lawyers and directors to employ body-

guards or leave the country.
NatWest is considering its response to the action against Solbank. Solbank and Banco Sabadell were unavailable for

Sterling blamed for fall in output

ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE City was shocked yester day by news that British manufacturing output fell in November, suggesting that the strength of the pound is now making life difficult for British exporters and weakening the case for anything but a modest rise in interest rates this spring.

Manufacturing fell 0.5 per

cent, reversing October's rise by the same amount, the Office for National Statistics said. This leaves manufacturing a meagre 0.2 per cent

higher than a year ago.
Jonathan Loynes of HSBC
Markets, said the figures showed that, with sterling's appreciation hitting exporters hard, strong consumer activity at home is not enough to ensure a healthy performance in industry. He said: "With the pound showing little sign of levelling off, there must now be a real danger that a further appreciation could tip manufacturing back into recession."

Although most still believe that the Chancellor will concede another quarter-point rise in base rates either next week or in February, any rise in rates in 1997 is likely to be limited. Industrial production rose 0.4 per cent in November after no change the previous month and was up 1.3 per cent

against a year ago. Later in the day a strong US employment report revived fears of higher US interest rates. The non-farm sector December against an average forecast of 192,000.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average slumped I per cent in early trading before recovering to show a gain of around 22 points in early afternoon trade. The FT-SE 100 index closed 30.4 points lower at 4,056.6.

WEEKEND

Anne Ashworth on the serious business of annuities

Woolwich-

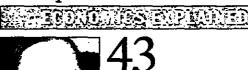
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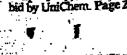
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end after the German Gehe company topped a previous bid by UniChem. Page 28



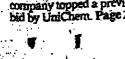
O WITH MAGARA

Tokyo close Yen 115.81 Brent 15-day (Mar) \$23.95 (\$24.40)

> Landon close \$359.10 (\$355.55) * denotes midday trading price

Lloyds bid

Chemists may be coming to



Blind date could end in tears at the Millennium party

um means different things to different people. I only hope the IT department is going to be able to join the party. Most offices have now heard of the IT "millennium timebomb" but many still seem amazingly complacent about how it could wreck their systems and their businesses. I suspect there are organisations that have been happily booking banqueting suites and ordering crates of champagne for the last day of the century, when they should have had their heads down working out how to avert a very masty crisis. The basis of the problem sounds almost childishly simple. The date 2000 can baffle

computers. Most modern systems can cope. But a problem arises because ble of working with the double zero in the date. It goes back to the

space was at a premium. To save space, computers were programmed to recognise only the last two digits of a year - "97", not "1997" for instance. Understandably, such systems assume that "00", being a small number, comes before, not after, "99", As such, they get their centuries mixed up. This simple failing can throw vast areas of everyday business life into confusion.

One ludicrous result that is already on record showed up when a 103-year-old American lady was invited to a nursery school. Her birth date was "93". How would the computer know it was 1893?

But the "timebomb" is not nearly as amusing, Millions of transactions are involved, from payroll calculations to stock control, from gas bills to sell-by dates. and new implications keep emerging. Lawyers have been

t is going to be a whale of an office party, but the millenni-space was at a premium. To save they might be personally liable if shareholder value drops because of a failure to be prepared for 2000. Nor is it widely appreciated that although a company's basic system may be equipped to cope, systems developed at departmental level are still likely to be noncompliant. Of course the double zero problem is correctable. The technology is there and the skills are available, or at least can be made available in time. In America. for instance, specialsts in obsolescent programming lan-guage are being brought out of

> There is a price to pay. One of my main worries is that businesses do not realise how rapidly the price will increase as the millennium approaches. That is why it is right to talk of a "timebomb". Even without the 2000 data problem. IT skills are a scarce resource. One prediction is that

EXECUTIVE VOICE



the scarcity of qualified staff could double IT pay bills every year until 2000.

Reeves

The millennium is not the only special challenge facing the IT industry: there is the single European currency coming along. One British bank puts the cost of updating its systems for 2000 at world's total IT budget over the next few years will be devoted to averting the timebomb.

However, a survey sponsored by my organisation, Delphi Group, showed that two out of three of the largest British com-panies are wholly or partly unprepared for the millennium. Seventy per cent have not allocated a specific budget.

Does British industry sometimes take too much for granted about computers? If so, it is a tribute to the quality of service provided by the IT industry. But IT functions require long-term planning to be effective. Planning for 2000 has to be done in the context of the supply and demand situation in the fiercely competi-

tive market in IT skills. That is the bad news about the ability of Britain's IT departments to meet the challenge. Americans sources. Too many British companies seem to believe it is safe to leave it till the next financial year.

The good news is that Britain is blessed with a wealth of the necessary IT skills. On the other hand, since skill knows no frontiers. Britain could lose out as America continues to attract resources that will therefore not be available to British users. On the brighter side, today's IT industry has an amazingly flexible struc-

It can do wonders in getting scarce resources to the right place at the right time — but this works best as part of long term, or corporate medium-term. planning.

Compared with the provision of some other business resources, IT services have evolved to the point where they enable our clients to exploit the full potential of state-

E50 million. Another prediction is seem better prepared, and are of-the-art expertise. Scarce talents that up to 50 per cent of the ordering the necessary IT reare maximised through varying the mix of outsourcing, training and reskilling of in-house resources, plus input of top quality consultancy. The result is a professional workforce that is highly mobile and highly adaptable Many professions are going down this path. IT can claim to be

showing the way. That system suits all concerned Most IT professionals tend to be independent-minded, ambitious people many of whom prefer to be self-employed. Meanwhile, the system offers invaluable flexibility to the users of IT. And it is this flexibility that will enable the millennium challenge to be met But only if there is more urgency among all IT users. Order your champagne now, by all means -but don't ignore the computers.

☐ Tony Reeves is Chairman and Chief Executive of Delphi Group.

Reprimand for Walz

The Securities and Futures Authority, involved in disciplinary proceedings against certain senior exec-utives at Barings over supervision of Nick Leeson. the rogue trader, yesterday ended its case against Mary Walz with a repri-mand and a E5,000 contri-

bution to costs. The SFA announced that Ms Walz, former global head of equity products. had accepted that between December 1994 and February 1995 she failed to act with due skill, care and diligence". in breach of City rules.

IMS placing

IMS Group, the telephone services provider, plans to float on the London Stock Exchange late this month through a £24-£27 million placing. The listing, expected to value IMS at up to £45 million, will bring a shared £2 million windfall for Bill Wilson, managing director, and Paul Rouse. his deputy.

Closing down

Marshalls, one of Britain's biggest chicken producers. is closing a loss-making plant at Coatbridge, Strathclyde, costing 500 jobs.

Gehe aims to win Lloyds with final bid

By Sarah Cunningham

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals group, appears to have ensured its victory in the prolonged battle to take over Lloyds Chemists by increasing its bid to 525p per share and buying nearly 21 per cent of Lloyds shares in the market.

Gehe's latest offer, which it said is final, is worth £684 million in total, which is £100 million more than its initial bid of nearly a year ago. UniChem. the other bidder for the group, has until next Friday to decide whether to increase its cash and shares offer. It declined to comment yesterday.

Lloyds has yet to recom-mend which offer shareholders should accept. Michael Ward, managing director of Lloyds, said yesterday: "The ball is now in UniChem's court. The next milestone will be UniChem's response." Analysts doubt that UniChem will be able to raise its offer to compete with Gehe's cash. Its current offer values Lloyds at £653.4 million.

UniChem made its first bid, which was recommended by Lloyds, on January 18 last year. A month later, Gehe weighed in with a counterbid worth £584 million. Both rebid last year after clearing regulatory hurdles.

Gehe yesterday raised its offer for ordinary shares from 500p each to 525p. It will pay 338.7p for each preference share. Lloyds Chemists rose 14p to 52612p while UniChem shares rose 10p to 256p.

Allen Lloyd, the founder and chairman of the group. still owns 5 per cent of the company's shares. He stands to make more than E35 million from the sale, including compensation for loss of office. Salomon Brothers announced after the close of trading that its market-makers held a stake of almost 6 per cent.

Dieter Kämmerer, Gehe's chairman, said he thought the protracted battle was damaging Lloyds's business and that he had increased the bid because he wanted to bring the process to a swift end.



In the frame: Joseph Lee, chairman of Crown Eyeglass, reported a rise in company pre-tax profits to £405,000 from £365,000 in the half-year to the end of September

Consortium tables bids for Forest

THE consortium involving Nigel Wray, the businessman, Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chair-man, and Phil Soar, the football author, yesterday tabled two separate bids for Nottingham Forest, the struggling Premiership side. One puts £11 million into the club and the other £13 million.

The bids are expected to receive the backing of the Forest board and will go to a shareholders meeting in three

The Wray group was able to bid after a minority of share-holders blocked the offer from a group backed by Sandy Anderson, who became a multimillionaire after selling Porterbrook, the train leasing company. One offer will inject sharebolders up to £2.75 million in cash or a 20 per cent stake in the new Forest. The other deal will put in £13 million but only gives £1.44 million to shareholders or a 10 per cent stake. Both have a new £4 million bank loan included.

Forest has asked its bankers to extend the deadline for repayment of its £6 million of borrowings while the deal is completed. Currently the loan is repayable on January 31.

SE ELEGINESS ROUNDUR

Northern Rock £40m nursing homes deal

NORTHERN ROCK, the building society that plans to become a £1 billion bank this year, has expanded its residential and nursing care homes to The deal interest. million acquisition of Kingsclear Homes. The deal increases the 720 beds already owned by Northern Rock's Regency Care Homes subsidiary by a further 1,250, making it the

eighth-largest nursing homes group in the UK.

Kingsclear's beds are spread across 23 residential and nursing care homes in Yorkshire, East Anglia and the Home Counties. It earned profits of £2 million to £3million in 1994-95. Some City commentators expressed surprise at Northern Rock's expansion into a highly fragmented sector, particularly in the same week that analysts downgraded earnings forecasts for TC Group, the market leader.

Hi-Tec passes again

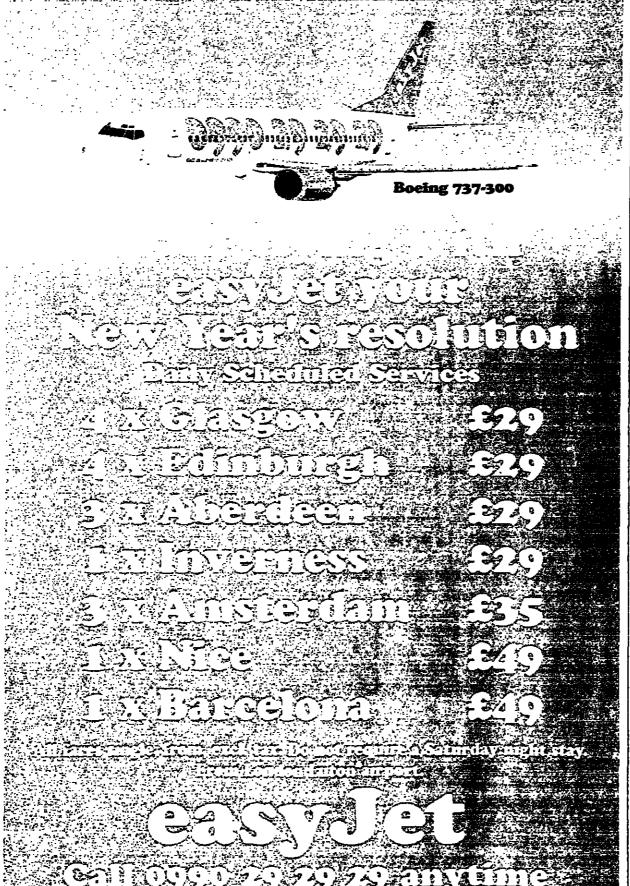
HI-TEC SPORTS: the sporting footwear maker, has again passed its interim, in spite of a 50 per cent profit recovery. Hi-Tec, which last paid a dividend in December 1994, said it was waiting until it could be sure of a recovery in the US and Canada before it resumed payouts. The pound insulated the company against a 4 per cent sales decline to £47 million in the six months to October 25. However, a collapse in the demand for its hillwalking boots in North Amercia held back total pre-tax profits to £920,000 (£610,000).

BA may face slots upset

BRITISH AIRWAYS may have to give up slots at Heathrow without compensation if an alliance with American Airlines is to proceed, it was claimed yesterday. The European Commission said selling slots was illegal under European Union law. The Office of Fair Trading has indicated willingness to approve the alliance as long as BA and American give up 168 weekly slots. BA said it would go along with the proposals provided it received financial compensation. The carriers

Fulmar to buy Royle

FULMAR, the printing group, is buying the loss-making WR a Royle Group, for £1.25 million and is planning to invest another £7 million over the next three years to return it to profits. Royle, founded in 1833, consists of four operating companies and prints annual reports, greetings cards and high quality stationery. Royle lost £1.6 million in its last full year on £21 million sales, and losses have continued at a similar level. Fulmar believes its management will quickly stem Royle's losses.



Lowndes Lambert looks at Fenchurch

By CAROLINE MERRELL

LOWNDES LAMBERT, the insurance broker, hopes to announce a deal to acquire Fenchurch, its smaller rival. within the next two weeks.

The companies were forced to announce their merger plans yesterday after news of a deal leaked - as evidenced by the recent strength Fenchurch's share price. Fenchurch shares closed at

662p yesterday, up 82p on the day, and 202p above the recent record low. Lowndes Lambert shares also warmed to the news, rising 7p to 110p. Lowndes Lambert has a market value of £68 million and Fenchurch is valued at £24 mil-

lion. The boards of both com-

panies believe a merger would bring together two comple-mentary businesses in a sector where profit margins have been cut over the past few years. Last year Fenchurch made profits of £5.9 million, while Lowndes Lambert's profits were £14 million.

The share price of Fen-church has fallen almost continually since it was floated. three years ago - a symptom of the increased pressure on smaller insurance brokers.

At the end of last year, JIB and Lloyd Thompson, two much bigger broking houses, merged to produce the £300 million Jardine Lloyd Thomp-

Boost for Textiles

By Alasdair Murray

THE cold winter and imhelped Courtaulds Textiles shares to bounce back yesterday.

245p after the company reported that winter trading had been above expectations.

Courtaulds Textiles said that it anticipated an improve-ment in second-half profits because of strong consumer

demand for fabrics and oper ational improvements. The company added that business with Marks & Spencer, its biggest customer, had contin-ued to advance.

Analysts predict that the company will reveal full year profits, excluding exceptionals, of about £33 million. Full-year exceptional charges, to cover a restructuring plan, are expected to total £35 million.

TOURIST RATES

Services Ser

THE SUNDAY TIMES Rotten Apple

The crowd of 4,000 aficionados cheered when Apple's legendary co-founders, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, took the stage at the annual gathering: But when Gil Amelio, the chairman said Apple had lost as much as \$150m in the final quarter of 1996, bringing losses for the year to more than \$1bn, the euphoria vanished ... 🤊



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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY II 1997

A WORKING WEEK FOR: SIR JOHN EGAN

Airport chief on course for a smooth landing

Jon Ashworth meets the man who steered

Jaguar to safety before his career took off

6 I'm not

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again with the introduction of shops to BAA



SIR John Egan is rest. less. He has made his name as a problem-solver, first at Jaguar, then at BAA, where he brought colour to the grey worlds of Heathrow and Gatwick, But marque revived, brushes cleaned, one

senses a yearning for a fresh challenge. Collecting the trophy is fine, but there is nothing to beat the thrill of the race. Sir John, 57, certainly has the time for a

fresh assignment — the next Jaguar, if you BUSINESS ROLL.

Will — but recognises that this may not be the best course. As he says: "You know what you're best at is fixing things up, and turning them round in the right direction." turning them round in the right direction. Stopping people doing the wrong things is really quite simple. The difficulty comes when people are getting more self-confident and start to have choices.

"Maybe your own manufity should go on a stage, and actually see something through a next phase. If you want to create a very fine company, then you've got to

a very fine company, then you've got to take it on a stage from that. That's the sort of dilemma that you've then got in your mind." Not that the angst is readily apparent. Poised at his table in the Savoy Grill, Sir John is a model of composure, cloaked in an air of self-assurance. Lunch, making metal objects — just miles and like the man, is a decisive making metal objects — just miles and miles of it. It was one of

affair swiftly chosen, heartily consumed. Sir John is good company, and open enough, in a guarded sort of way. He even admits to losing his temper. "Of course, we're all human, but I've discovered getting mad doesn't help. You get everybody else upset as everybody else upset as well. I think when I get

mad, most people wouldn't even know I had got mad. You try to keep your outward behaviour as predictable as you possibly can."

Sir John does not give many interviews these days. He was constantly in the press in the 1980s, when Jaguar's turning fort-unes made him a household name — the hero who saved a great British marque. Chief executive of BAA since 1990, and chairman of the London Tourist Board, he tries to keep out of the limelight. You feel that in some sense you've got this horrible thing growing up on your shoulder called your image, or whatever. Try and live up to that? Just forget it, You.

> is not all bad. A tough manager who does not suffer fools, he has turned BAA into the world's largest commercial airport operator, running seven airports in the UK, and eyeing contracts from Australia to South Africa. Toes have been dipped with success in America, where BAA manages two airports - Pittsburgh and

Nearly half BAA's income comes from retailing, and it has a healthy investment in property and construction, including the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow. BAA is backing new rail links from Paddington and St Pancras. Since 1992, annual pre-tax profits have risen from £191 mil-iton to £418 million. Sir John is rewarded in kind, receiving £593,000 in remunera-tion plus £219,000 in pension contributions in the year to the end of March.

Heathrow and its sisters had seen better days when Sir John arrived on the scene. "They weren't very interesting, and were far too bureaucratic," he recalls. They'd become very dull places to be in, as they still are in many countries of the world. What we tried to do is to make them interesting."

Few would guess at the source of his inspiration. After graduating from Imperial College, London, in 1961, Sir John signed up as a trainee with Shell International, and went on to work in fran, drilling oil wells. His wife, Julia, was with him. "Our favourite city was Esfahan, right in the middle of the country," he recalls. "We drove for hours, and when you got there, there was this marvellous medieval city with a river flowing through it and miles of green around, like an oasis, really.

"It had a bazaar that was the biggest, I think, in the Middle East, where there was a tremendous amount of 'making things'. They were making silkwork, they were painting ivory paintings, they were

the most exciting places in the world." The experience left its mark. "When I got to Heathrow, I decided we ought to have all the best going to put

things in the world, at the crossroads of the world. We were talking about the Silk Roads crossing at Samarkand, and we were going to have that at Heathrow. The idea really came from these marvellous places that are so

exciting and so interesting." And so it is that Heathrow and Gatwick now resemble enormous soukhs, awash with high street names. Mappin & Webb in Heathrow Terminal 4 sells more Rolex watches than anywhere in Britain. A bottle of whisky is sold every six seconds at a BAA airport. A quarter of all films sold by Dixons are sold in airport stores. All this fits with the Sir John rallying

cry: putting the customer first. This is precisely what I did with Jaguar Cars," he says. "We spent a lot of time researching what customers wanted, and trying to put that into the cars. I've always assumed Sir John has an image, of course, and it that business is about making money out. of satisfying customers, and that, without a satisfied customer, you don't really have a business. If you start off from there, I

think you actually get it right."
Drilling oil wells was just one aspect of an extraordinarily varied career. Born in Lancashire, Sir John grew up in Coven-try, and helped out at his father's garage. He once accepted a bicycle as partexchange on a car — along with the bicycle clips. After Shell, he did an MBA at London Business School, then ventured into spare parts, working at General Motors and Leyland Cars. A stint with



Sir John Egan aimed to recapture the excitement of an Eastern bazaar by bringing dozens of high street retailers to airports to make them interesting

Massey Ferguson in Italy led to Jaguar, the stock market and a knighthood. Sir John sold the company to Ford of America in 1990 for £1.6 billion, netting £2 million

on his shares. His week remains reassuringly familiar. A solid sleeper, he jogs in Regent's Park each morning, and sets off for the office at 8.15 in his company Jaguar. On Fridays the Egans escape to their house in Warwick for a quiet day "mending fences" - unless Twickenham is in full cry. Sir John is keen on his rugby. Sunday often finds him on the road, positioning

himself for the coming week's events.
The Egans enjoy dining out in the
Charlotte Street area of London, not far from their Regent's Park home, and tend to enjoy their own company. The couple have two daughters, 24 and 28. Italian food is a favourite. They go skiing every year, and enjoy walking in Tuscany and Switzerland, as well as closer to home There are some marvellous long-distance walks in the UK," he says. "I think our favourites are the Thames Path and the Cotswolds Way."

The Egans are also fond of the Lake District and the Devon coast - although their technique of sending luggage on ahead by taxi after overnight stops causes

consternation. "They simply can't understand why you aren't going in it," Sir John laughs. "These must be nutters here."

uesday

Restless or not. Sir John has plenty to

keep him going. The report of the public inquiry into Terminal 5 is expected to be submitted to the Government later this

year. Sir John says: People have accepted that we're going to have Terminal 5. I think now the issues are, how do we make

sure its impact is minimised on the communities around. We are very willing to enter that debate, and make sure we come up with a high-quality solution."

Labour's threatened windfall tax does not apply to BAA, he insists. No one has said we are under-regulated, sold at too low a price, or making excessive profits." He extols the virtues of privatisation, while conceding that mistakes have been made. "Privatisation has been a huge success story, and it rather grieves me that the mistakes of one or two companies have coloured what's been, really, a superb piece of value-added for the nation as a whole. Practically all of the organ-

lower cost to their customers." Sir John leads from the top. "The way I manage is to try to get the long-term strategy well understood by everybody." The next thing is to set the financial and quality objectives for the company. From

isations have given better quality and

then on. I spend most of my time helping the key people achieve their goals."

He insists he is receptive to ideas.

listen avidly to the advice people give. I don't normally react to it right away, but I sort of put it into the machine, and keep crunching away at it, until eventually I emerge with what I think we have to do."

The new year brings the prospect of new airport contracts in Australia and South Africa, but Sir John is not interested in expansion at any price. "The one thing that I've made quite clear is that I'm not going to put flags on the map and lose money. This is all about making money. if it's not going to be profitable, I won't be doing it. BAA's "customers" - shoppers and shareholders alike - would expect

Statement of power set in stone for corporate world

Spencer House, that handsome Neo-Classical palace in Portland stone that looks serenely out over Green Park from St James's Place, has recently unveiled a new restoration of one of London's greatest architectural curios. On the south side of the house is the Palm Room, Lord Spencer's bizarre chamber of marital fertility, strewn with gilded palm leaves and decorated with a cornucopia of Grecian

gold ornamental devices. Heavily gilded palm tree columns line the walls and overhead floats a pink, pale green and gold coffered dome ceiling and a grandiose frieze of griffins and candelabra copied from the Temple of Antonius and Faustina in Rome. It was to this room that the 1st Earl Spencer retired after dinner to play cards and discuss

Joanna Pitman assesses the charms of Spencer House after its restoration

ly emerged from a ten-year restoration programme un-der the direction of Lord Rothschild, whose J Rothschild Holdings Group acquired a 125-year lease on the building from Lord Spencer

The majority of the build-ing has been fitted out for corporate use by elements of the Rothschild empire. The aining state rooms of 'London's last intact palace' house the Rothschild collection of fine art as well as exquisite artworks lent by friends, colleagues and institutions. The list includes works from the Queen's Royal Collection, the Tate Gal-lery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Trust and George Christie. The result is an exquisite

and richly decorated private gallery palace that has pro-vided the surroundings for dinners and functions tailored to suit Lord Rothschild's business purposes. But since the completion of the £17 million restoration programme, he has thrown open the doors of Spencer House for hire by companies and institutions for a maxi-

mum of 60 functions a year. The house was built between 1755 and 1765 for John, the 1st Earl Spencer, as a private London palace for this prominent Whig family. The shell of the house was erected and the ground floor decorated between 1755 and 1758 by John Vardy, a pupil of William Kent, under the supervision of General George Gray, an amateur

Society of Dilettanti. Fashions soon changed and by the end of 1758 Roman taste was out and "the pure Greek style" was in. James. "Athenian" Stuart (architect of Lichfield House in St James's Square) took over. decorated the first floor and remodelled part of the ground floor.

The house was remodelled and redecorated in the 1780s under the 2nd Earl Spencer by Henry Holland, architect of Brooks's. The 19th-century Earls Spencer continued the family tradition in politics and maintained Spencer House as a focus of political and artistic society. By the 1920s, the 7th Earl, who was still in occupation, redecorated the entire house and saved it from to live there in the 1920s and Spencer House was occupied by the Ladies' Army and Navy Club from 1927 to 1943.

At the height of the Blitz, many of the original fixtures were removed to Althorp, the Almost all of these architectural details have been painstakingly reproduced under Lord Rothschild's direction by craftsmen working for Dick Reid, the York mastercarver. Original colour schemes have been ecreated under the direction of David Mlinaric.

Spencer House is now close to fulfilling again its original design as a statement of power political, royal and artistic. For information on private and corporate entertaining, call 0171-514 1964. For public opening times, call 0171-499



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Heavily gilded columns adorn the splendidly restored Palm Room at Spencer House





Kingfisher set to revive a suffering retail sector

worth, Comet and B&Q stores some much needed cheer to the retail sector with its trading statement on Wednesday. In vesterday's depressed

conditions, Kingfisher finished 2½p easier at 639½p. But Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive, will be upbeat about current trading, with brokers also forecasting a sharp jump in sales during the run-up to Christmas and new year sales. Brokers have already pencilled in a strong rise in pre-tax profits for the year to January 31, with most of them looking for £380 million compared with last year's £287 million.

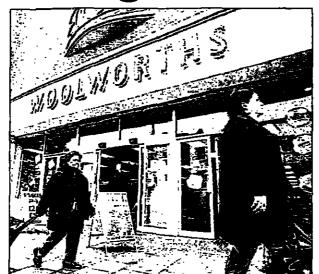
Woolworth is expected to provide the biggest impetus to profits growth, having increased its market share with the help of improved buying patterns. B&Q will have continued to benefit from the recovery in the housing

In contrast, the trading statements from other leading retailers have been, at best. mixed. Argos saw its price tumble 110p to 623p after disappointing the market with a lacklustre trading statement. Like-for-like sales were up 11 per cent but showed definite signs of slowing, while sales of toys had been difficult in the run-up to Christmas as Kingfisher grabbed market share.

The news from Argos dragged other stores lower. with Next, reporting next week, falling 22½p to 529p. House of Fraser fell 5½p to 141p. Other losers included Great Universal, down 222p to 580p. Marks & Spencer. 17p to 46512p, Boots, 712p to 611 2 p. Dixons, 13 2 p to 494p. Hamleys. 112p to 3682p. W H Smith. 162p to 4432p. and Thorn, 82p to 2662p.

The rest of the market was treated to its now customary Friday heiter-skelter performance by Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrial average showing a 67-point fall during the firt hour. It followed some better than expected US employment numbers, providing further evidence that the Fed may be forced to raise interest rates soon. Later regained its poise.

Underpinned by a steady performance from gilts, the equity market rode out the index reducing a 50-point fall to close 30.4 down at 4,056.6. stretching the fall on the week to 32.9 points. Turnover



Woolworth has bagged more market share from rivals

topped I billion shares for the first time this year with heavy turnover recorded in BT, up 2½p at 396½p (28.7 million shares), BTR, down 102p at 254½p (26 million) and Freepages, 4p firmer at 43¾p (63 million).

ICI continued to reel from Thursday's profits down-grading by HSBC James Capel, the broker, falling 16p to 735p. Capel has wiped £100

Lloyds Chemist responded to the better terms from Gehe with a 14p rise to 526½ p. The German drugs wholesaler has raised its offer from 500p to 525p in cash, valuing Lloyds at £684.1 million. With the price trading at a discount to the offer, Gehe snapped up stock. By the close, 33 million shares had changed hands. It now accounts for around 21 per cent of Lloyds. Unichem's

Further demand for SIG up 92p at a new high of 2742p, stretches the rise on the week to 30p. Brokers say SIG is undergoing a rerating as prospects continue to improve. This week Teather & Greenwood, the broker, came out with a "buy' recommendation and was joined by Merrill Lynch.

million from both its 1997 and 1998 projections because of the

P&O rose 17p more to 620p. still reflecting Kleinwort Benson's decision to include it

among its top ten 1997 buys. But Redland remained in freefall, losing another 5½p to 330p. after briefly touching 322p. It now seems increasingly likely that Redland will lose its place in the top 100

rival offer is worth 505p a share. or £657 million. Unichem rose 10p to 256p.

Ryland Group climbed 28p to a new high of 1072p on news of a bid approach. The motor dealer said it was in talks which may lead to an offer being made. Other motor dealers continued to respond positively to bullish news about car sales out earlier this week from the Society of Motor Manufactur-

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current	1
price	- 1
Barclays Bank£10.67	
Lanıca Trust£17.621/2	
Bespak555p	
Wickes1750	
Redland330p	
Dixons Group494p	
TC113p	
ICI735p	
Metthew Clark305p	

COMMODITIES

Week's
change
+76½p Buying ahead of figures
-224%pProfit taking
+80p Buoyant trading
-242p Returns from suspension
-22p Downgrading
40- Maries - Land 6 days 60-
-49pWorries about future profits
-25p Profits warning
-34p Broker downgrades profits
o ip ilitimizations desiriginates profits

5p to 116p, Evans Halshaw, 11p to 252½p, Dixon Motors. 21p to 267p, and Charles

Sidney, 5½ p to 90p. Fenchurch Insurance. mentioned in this column yesterday, enjoyed an early mark-up, rising 8½p to 66½p after confirming it was in merger talks with rival Lowndes Lambert. 7p higher at 110p. The Fenchurch price climbed sharply on Thursday, leading to claims that a bid may be imminent. Speculators say terms are likely to be allpaper, valuing Fenchurch at

around 80p a share. Arabis rose 52 p to 22p after the company announced it was in bid talks. At these levels it is capitalised at £12.4

ASW Holdings fell 4p to a new low of 29p after confirm-ing earlier this week that it had continued to incur losses

since June. This week's profits warning left Rubicon a further 10p lower at 10212 p. The price was further undermined by a cross in 500,000 shares at 100p.

Wellington Holdings firmed 2p to 2552p after splashing out £5.1 million for Dynamic Seals in the US. Earlier this week, ABN Amro Hoare Govett came out with a 'buy" recommendation for the

group.

Doeflex jumped 11½p to
285p. Edinburgh Fund Managers has increased its stake in the company to 2.04 million shares, or 11.7 per cent.

GILT EDGED: Prices

moved better after weaker than expected industrial production numbers. But the gains were short-lived, with London following US Treasury bonds lower on the latest US employment figures.

In futures, the March long gilt closed unchanged at £10831/32 as the number of contracts completed reached 93.000. There was a steepening of the yield curve as shorter dated issues outperformed longs. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished five ticks down at £101916, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was E's firmer at

NEW YORK: US blue chips survived a surprisingly strong December employment report that sent bonds into a tailspin. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was only 17.31 points lower at 6.608.36, after a loss of almost 70 points in earlier dealings.

MAJOR NDICES

New York (midday): 60836 (-1731) Tokyo: Nikkel Averag Hong Kong: Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt

Singapore: 224231 (-11.42) Brusseis Zurich: London: 4056.6 (-30.4) 4507.8 (-9.9) FTSE MId 250

2021-3 (-12.6)

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RPIX 153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

Cadcentre 2785 GB Railways Hardy Underwrig 175 ... Highams Systems 155 - 5 Oxford Biomedica Parkwood Hldgs

- RIGHTS ISSUES

Wst Bromwich Alb £220

Compel Gp n/p (160) 35 Fisher J n/p (120) Pressac Hldgs n/p Prism Rail n/p (330) 125 RPC n/p (142) 21 Shaftesbury n/p (137) 22 Wickes n/p (150)

MAJOR CHANGES

Pilat Tech

Sunderland

RISES:	
B\$ Group	160p (+20p)
Pochins	125p (+14p)
Matthew Clark	305p (+27 ⁻ 2p)
Courtaulds Text	245p (+17½p)
Hambros	253p (+16p)
Evans Halshaw	
UniChem	256p (+10p)
Natl Express	
Close Bros	379p (+11'zp)
Lloyds Chem	526'ap (+14p)
Photobition	419¹zp (+10p)
FALLS:	-
Phonelink	44n (-141-n)
Arrose	

. 186°zp (-15p) . 186°zp (-11p) . 347p (-15'zp) . 529p (-22°zp) 903'sp (-36p) . 580p (-22'-p . 682p (-22'-p 368'ap (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 45

Society gathering

BACK in the 1930s, it was fashionable among the mad and the bad to believe that a conspiracy of bankers and financiers was about to take over the world. Today we are better informed; we know that no banker could possess such global vision. (Besides, even if they did bid for the world, we know that they would pay too much for it.) Yet the market is enchanted with the banks, an

FT-SE 100 index of leading shares. Add up the market values of the FT-SE banks, insurers and financial service companies and you get a financial juggernaut worth more than £150 billion, almost a fifth of the value of the index as a whole. And that number will soon increase with the arrival of the building societies. With a total value of £16" billion, Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance &

introspective obsession that is best seen in the

billion of manufacturing businesses out of the FT-SE, making way for mortgages, life. insurance premiums and whizzo treasury schemes. Add up the numbers and by the end of the year, the financial sector could account for more than 23 per cent of the FT-SE 100.

Does it matter? Possibly. Such indices are used as a barometer of economic mood and expectations of the financial health of UK pic. But outside the dealing rooms no one believes that banks and life insurers are so important. British Invisibles reckons they contribute not a quarter of GDP but only 7 per cent. But banks are now very profitable, providing returns of 23 per cent or more, double what manufacturing achieves. The question now is when, not whether the overcapitalised financial sector sees its profits squeezed.

If optimism about other

retailers also proves over-done, the market will have

big cause to worry. With

exporters profits trounced by

the strong pound, domestic

retailing is the big white hope for investors. More modest expectations for the

high street could leave this

Argos

THE CITY has suddenly become nervous about the great retailing recovery. Argos has let the world know that the lowest City forecast of its profits - some £140 million — is in fact at the top

of the range.
That led to a massive selloff yesterday, with Argos shares dropping 15 per cent. Yet Argos is still likely to produce profits well-above last year's level. In effect, the City had developed unrealistic expectations about sales and apparently overlooked some costs falling in the second half.

The result was a balloon of rising expectations with brokers leapfrogging over the forecasts of their rivals.

Argos is not without its problems. Expanding fast, the company's new outlets have been taking business

SHOPPED TILL IT DROPPED

Lloyds Chem

THE silence was deafening from UniChem yesterday after its rival, the German wholesaler Gehe, put on the table a £684 million final offer for Lloyds Chemists. UniChem has little to gain from pursuing this one further. An attempt to match the 525p cash offer from the Germans would entail a substantial further issue of shares. Moreover, any sign that UniChem was prepared to raise its offer would deal a hammer blow to UniChem stock and so further increase the size of the share issue and the potential earnings

To trump Gehe would be a self-defeating strategy. Its bid the British wholesaler reckons it can reduce overhead by £20 million in a year al-though it may have to achieve more than that to avoid dilution to its earnings. Gehe, too, must achieve savings to make this deal pay

but its cost of capital is lower and in accepting Gehe's cash, Lloyds investors can adopt a low-risk strategy. Indeed, if the market is bidding for stock at 525p, there is little incentive for Lloyds holders to wait for a cheque from Gehe, they might as well sell

from old stores, damaging

like-for-like sales growth.

There was also a mysterious

slow-down in the autumn

while December was better

but not outstanding. This

does not mean that the Argos

management has lost its

touch but the stock is still at a

premium to the sector and

could show further

The question remains as to what UniChem's options are for the future. Failing to win Lloyds is a disappointment but not a disaster. Gehe will spend more than a year rationalising AAH and

UniChem will be able to exploit any weakness and continue to build up its retail chain piecemeal. If the UniChem bid lapses then UniChem's stock can be ex-

British Gas

Lloyds.

BRITISH Gas has once again lobbed a financial grenade into the City — this time in the form of a surprise £500 million provision for redundancies and surplus property

write-offs. BG still awaits the Monopolies and Mergers Commis-sion's ruling on the Ofgas pricing formula for Transco and cynics might wonder whether the provision is designed as much to impress the MMC as to provide shareholders with financial information about BG. The future remains as obscure as ever with BG's best business unstream exploration and production — lumbered with the regulated pipeline utility and its dividend obligations

It is probably too late to stop this demerger so investors must speculate about the fortunes of Centrica. Free of price controls and the need to pay a dividend, a cheap Cenesting punt. But in future gas will sell on price, just like petrol. To succeed in that market will require retailing flair, a commodity in short supply at

		
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY II 1997



TESSA TEASE 34

The academic who rumbled **Abbey National**

WEEKEND MONEY

REFUND TIME 37

Check your statements just in case



THE WAS TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Vote now or risk losing your shares

Anne Ashworth and Marianne Curphey

on how the Halifax needs 3.4m

'yes' votes before proceeding with float

a series of advertisements since tude of the vote on its plans to become a bank. The scale of operation has been compared to the tallest fisherman's tale about the size of a catch, to the loudest sound that can come from the lungs of the

luvviest of actors, and to a giant baby lumbering around a supermarket aisle. Yesterday the Halifax supplied some more specific details. To ensure that its plans are passed, 3.4 million of its invesors must say "yes", that is 50 per cent of all those who qualify to vote. The assent of borrowers is less important. Only a simple majority of those voting is required.

To ensure that it achieves the turnout of investors, the society has begun a campaign to make certain that its costomers submit their ballot papers. On the first page of the transfer document, which sets

out the terms of the flotation, customers are told that their free shares could be in eopardy unless they cast their votes.

Those tempted to be dilatory are warned that they must submit their ballot papers by February 17, unless they wish to attend the special general meeting at the Sheffield Arena on February 24. Latest posting day will be St Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14.

February 24 is also an important date for those wishing to ensure that they receive the maximum number of shares. Those savers who qualify for the additional variable distribution of shares who have allowed their balances to fall below the all-important £1,000 level must top up their accounts by Rebruary 24, or lose their entitlement. If they forget to do so they will get the basic distribution of only: 200 shares, worth an estimated £840.

Some 4.1 million members, including two million borrowers, the overwhelming majority of the Halifax faithful, will

receive the basic distribution. To qualify, Boxing Day, the Halifax Building you need to have had a balance of £100 or Society has emphasised the magniaccounts at midnight on November 25, 1994, and at December 31, 1996. These accounts must remain open until the stock market flotation in June.

Unfortunately for those customers in deposit accounts, such as the Cardcash account and Asset Reserve cheque account, only share accounts confer crucial voting and membership rights. Only

Borrowers will benefit if they had £100 or more in a Halifax mortgage account at November 25, 1994, and at December 31, 1996, and at the date of flotation in June.

Some 4.6 million people will qualify for both the basic and the variable distribution, including those borrowers who are also investors with the society. Only those who had £1,000 in a share account, or share accounts at November 25, 1994. December 31, 1996, and at February 24, 1997, are eligible. The number of free shares they will pocket will be based on the lower of their total balances at these dates, with one extra free share being iven for every £50 over the £1,000 threshold up to a limit of £50,000.

This means that someone who had £5,673 invested with the society at November 25, 1994, and has £11,500 at February 24, 1997, will be deemed to have a "lower total balance" of £5,763 and will receive 294 free shares, including their 200 basic distribution. These will be worth £1,235 at 420p mid-price for the shares. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising the Halifax, has estimated their value at between 390p and 450p per share.

Those investors with £50,000 entrusted to the care of the Halifax will get 1,181 shares, worth £4,960, the maximum available however large your balance. To the ire of those with joint accounts,

only the first named on the account stands to benefit, in a rule that has caused much grief in this and other building society conversions and much



Xtra effort: the scale of the Halifax's operation to convince members to vote has been compared to a giant baby lumbering around a supermarket aisle

dissension among couples who have pooled their savings. The Halifax has taken pains to ensure the rights of widows and other successors in a complex set of provisions covering 20 pages of the 165page transfer document. However, a widow or widower will be eligible only for the additional variable distribution if they were two-year investing members with the society at December 31, 1996.

The Halifax intends to distribute some £16 million in a statutory cash bonus to its savers under 18 who do not have votes and so cannot receive shares, and to those with balances of less than £100 in share accounts at December 31, 1996. This bonus will be approximately 9.4 per cent. However, thrifty younger savers hoping to make a killing may be disappointed.

The bonus will be given only on the first

£1,000 invested, meaning that the maximum payout will be £94.

To educate its army of shareholders, the Halifax will be sending out information on the stock market, although it expects that many will wish to dispose of their

holdings as soon as possible. Those who decide to hold on to their free shares in this new bank and in any other of the societies also becoming banks this

year will be able to shelter them from tax in a personal equity plan (Pep). As disclosed in The Times and finally announced by the Inland Revenue this week. the shares will be transferred at zero value, as they have not been paid for. As a result, anyone minded to do so can invest a further £9,000 in other Peps, as their annual allowances will be unaffected.

L&G back in annuity business

/ biggest pension providers, has returned to the annuity market after an absence of three years (Caroline Merrell

35 A. STREET

The company stopped selling annuities because it felt that it was unable to offer competitively priced products. It has decided to return to the fray because it believes that it can now offer annuities with higher rates which will be

Legal & General is also hoping to exploit the trend towards money purchase pension schemes, where the size of the pension is defined by amount contributed. Those with money purchase schemes must purchase an annuity at some point in their.

The company is also pre-

egal & General, one of the United Kingdom's biggest pension provid-Tony Fübin, Legal & General's head of personal pen-sions, said: "The number of maturing pensions is on the increase and set to grow over the coming years because of the shift from final-salary to money purchase schemes and

a rising trend towards early

retirement." Peter Ouinton, managing director of the Amounty Bureau, the pensions specialist, believes that Legal & General will offer good annuity rates on certain types of products. He said: "We think they will offer good rates for single-life funds of under £50,000."

the annuity will provide a pension for the spouse if the policyholder dies. A single life product does not offer this benefit

According to figures from Legal & General, a £10.000 lump sum will buy an annual income of £1,120 on a singlelife basis for a male aged 65. This compares favourably with the £1.102 offered by Generali, a company that is well known for offering some of the best annuity rates. Royal & Sun Alliance, meanhile, would pay an annuity of E1,057.

On a joint-life basis, Legal & General is not quite as gener-ous. A £10,000 pension would

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth Generali offers a better rate at

In general, annuity rates are at a very low level. Their rates are linked to the prevailing level of interest rates, which are historically low. Mr Quinton said: "The end of 1996 saw annuity rates move up for the first time in several months, marking an end to the downward spiral which lasted since July.

The Prudential, Swiss Life, Canada Life and MGM all raised their rates in the latter half of December. Stalwart was the first annuity provider of 1997 to increase rates on December 3.

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Season for stock-pickers

Received wisdom says that 1997 will be a "down" year for the London stock market, and a few others as well. We shall see. After ten days, the average is marginally lower. That is not surprising after a suspicious-ly convenient new high at year end. when the books are made up. In the short term, moderate reports on Christmas trading will not help. Nor will cuts in brokers' profit forecasts for companies vulnerable to the rising pound. Such short-term caution is hardly cause to cash in and belatedly hibernate Averages only tell you about the average. Many unit trusts reflect that,

but not all. As quoted here before, Niels Taube, doyen of UK fundamental analysts, can remember few years in his long career when overall market movements obliterated skills at picking the right companies to invest in. Anyone who doubts that need look no further than the performance of big companies in 1996. Over the year, the FT-SE 100 index of Britain's biggest

companies rose by 11.6 per cent. But that would tell you little about what happened to the value of the 100 individual companies that made up that index. Details kindly provided by Datastream international show that only 40 of the 100 ended with gains within 20 percentage points round the average. Only two in five gained between 1.6 per cent and 21.6 per cent. The performance of the majority bore little resemblance to

the index they jointly make up. At the top, Enterprise Oil gained 63 per cent. At the bottom, Hanson fell by 32 per cent, even after adjusting for its



first demergers. Four other companies put on more than 40 per cent. Although Hanson was in a league of its own, five hers lost more than 10 per cent. Unfortunately for many private inves-

tors, the worst losers were mostly bigger than the best winners. They included British Gas, Allied Domecq, BTR and BAT Industries as well as Hanson. All these stocks are widely held. All were widely proffered by professional advisers as safe, good value holdings - often helping pension funds to unload.

In 1996, those who bought Railtrack's partly paid shares were instant and big winners far ahead of the index. British Energy investors had to be patient but have now gamed about 30 per cent in six months. Later in 1997, there should be gains for millions who receive shares in Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester as fund managers ritually buy control of the former building societies from private investors in the market. Picking winners among existing

stocks is easier said than done. The longterm approach is to choose companies whose profits are forecast to grow at a double-figure rate for at least the next two years, that have strong positions in healthy markets and good reputations. Profit growth gives these momentum, even if a market fall hits their ratings. Chasing bargain basement big names

can often produce gains in a bad year for the markets. Those of us who are suckers for the January sales approach know, however, that there are good reasons for well-researched stocks to fall from grace. United Biscuits may have looked cheap a year ago, but fell a further quarter in 1996. Hanson has had two bad years in a row. These again feature among new year tips, however, along with Allied Domeco, BAT and ICI, also a poor 1996 performer.

few will doubtless shine. BAT is a cyclical stock, torn between bad vibes on tobacco and strong profits. After a nervy 1996, it may bounce back. Over the long haul, this looks a cheap stock destined to remain cheap. Hanson may spring to life after its final demerger of Eastern, but the latter looks more obviously attractive to an American power utility

Aside from such special situations, many of us back the recovery of troubled companies too early. Wiseheads wait for reliable evidence of improvement. Potential bidders for down-and-outs such as Sears often wait for someone else to do the hard work. Early birds can earn the best returns. They can also have a long, depressing, profitiess wait.

Sara McConnell explains who will benefit most in the flotation

Don't be left behind in the race for Woolwich shares



7 oolwich savers may need to act fast to safeguard their bonuses, ensuring that they re-ceive the maximum number of shares. As well as a basic distribution of shares worth £844 the society is making an additional distribution to the 1.12 million investors who had been with the Woolwich for two years at December 31. 1996, and held at least £1,000 '

in their accounts on December 31, 1995. However, they will lose the right to these extra shares if their accounts remain below this level.

They have a month to top up their balances before the society's special general meeting on Arena in Docklands. If savers who qualify for the variable distribution fail to replenish their accounts to more than

poses only a basic distribution. £1,000, they will receive only the basic payout. This means that someone with £5,000 in Conversion, his or her account at December 31, 1995, who let their balance fall below a £1,000 would lose £368. If they do qualify for the additional distribution they will receive four shares for every £100 in their

accounts, giving them a mini-mum of 40 shares and a maximum of 2,000, on top of the basic distribution. The bonus will be calculated on the lower of the two balances on information: December 31, 1995 (the first reference date) and February ii, 1997 (the second reference

Woolwich has indicated that the share price will be between 175p and 200p, with a midprice of 187p.

Based on this mid-price, those with £5,000 saved, for example, stand to get an additional variable distribution of 200 shares, making a total distribution worth £1,218. Those 60,000 fortunate souls with balances of £50,000 or more will gain the maximum bonus of £4,593. This includes the basic distribution of 450 shares, worth £844. The 910,000 remaining savers and the 530,000 borrowers will receive this basic

distribution. Those who are both borrower and savers and who have more than £50,000 in their savings account will qualify for the maximum bonus worth

The Woolwich's plan to make an additional variable distribution to larger savers should save it from the wrath of its more substantial investors. Larger savers with the Alliance & Leicester remain irate that their society pro-

However, Members For group, argues that a flat-rate payout would have given all 2.57 million members 650 shares each. This would have meant larger payouts for three

In its transfer document, which details every aspect of the society's plans to turn itself into a bank, the Woolwich reveals the following key

As a bank, the Woolwich is expected to be valued at between £2.9 billion and £3.38 billion. At the mid-value of £3.17 billion, the shares would

Extra variable distribution should lessen the wrath of larger investors

be worth 187p each. These shares will be included in the FT-SE 100 index.

All savers with a total balance of £100 or more on December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996, will receive the basic payout of 450 shares. Borrowers with mortgages of £100 or more will also receive the basic payout. Only first-

qualify. Savers who failed to top up accounts to the £100 level by the end of last year will lose the right to free shares. Instead, they will get a statutory cash bonus of 10 per cent of their February II, but it is vital to balance, Children under 18 retain membership.

had less than £100 in their accounts will also get a statutory cash bonus. They will not have the right to vote at the

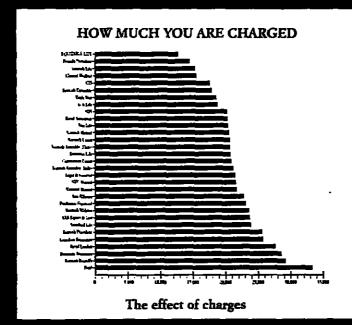
special general meeting. joint accounts where the first-named holder died before the flotation would still qualify for a payout. If a first-named holder who qualifies for the variable payout as ance of more than £1,000 dies before the flotation, the second-named holder will get the payout. He or she will also get a payout from any other account for which he or she is the first-named holder. Alternatively, a surviving secondnamed holder will get the basic payout if that was all the dead member would have received. But such secondnamed holders will be unable to claim a payout from any other held.

Disabled people whose ac-counts are held in the name of carers or staff, with the disabled person as the secondnamed account holder, will not qualify for payouts.

■ Members wanting to vote on the Woolwich's proposals can attend the special general meeting at the London Arena in Docklands at 2.30pm on February II. Alternatively. they can vote by post by February 10. For the proposals to be approved, at least 20 per cent of savers entitled to vote must vote, of whom at least 75 per cent must vote in favour. There must be a simple majority of borrowers who vote

being in favour. ■ You can run down your balance after the key date of

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melit most in the 10 7 Patience pays off for Halifax members Thousands more employees than previously are also members of money purchase company stream on money purchase company stream.



Patience has been its own re-ward for Halifax borrowers and savers. Many have com-plained about the long delay between the announcement of the flotation in November: 1994 and payout day in June 1997.

However, this period of warting has been fruitful because of a combination of circumstances. House prices have recovered, giving a boost not only to the Halifax, but also to the closely comparable but already quoted Abbey National. As a result, Abbey shares have risen, and so have the estimates

for the Halifax price.

The value of the free shares to be distributed to 8.1 million fortunate members seems likely to be more than 20 per cent better than originally predicted. The Abbey happiness effect has also spread to the Woolwich. where the estimated windfalls are almost 25 per more than expected. While crossing its fingers that fire,



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

COMPANY TO ...

market does not suffer a reverse before the summer, the Halifax should be concentrating on ways to keep its customers smiling after flotation, A significant improvement in savers' rates would be a good start.

Don't count on it

AN ABACUS in primary colours illustrates the promotional literature for Legal & General's push into the annuity market, presumably to

sugggest how simple and straightforward its offers will be. But anyone whose personal pension is now maturing and who needs to buy an annuity should be cynical about such symbols, and also of phrases like "it's e numbers that matter", the slogan

for the new enterprise. L&G has been attracted back into this field because more people now have personal pensions and will be obliged to buy annuities, from which their retirement income will be paid. and are required to arrange annuities for themselves. Few have any idea of the wide variation in rates and the need to shop around.

For L&G these statistics are the "numbers that matter", rather than the amount that you will receive from your annuity. Legal & General's rates will not necessarily be better than those of its rivals. Although it talks of competitive pricing, this is easy when rates are low, as at present. It is more difficult when they begin to rise.

Prospective annuitants should keep their calculators at hand, rather than an abacus, when they compare rates from different insurers. Always remember that Jane Austen described annuities as a "very serious business" and take Legal & General at its word — it is the numbers that matter, not the hype.

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Portfolio EuroPEP is to be launched in February with a three week fixed price offer. The offer opens on Saturday February 8 and closes on Friday February 28.

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Words of wisdom: Keith Hagar, 67, gives specialist advice to two customers who have elderly relatives concerned about their finances

Senior service to ease care worries

Pensioner shall speak unto pensioner in Help the Aged's new financial advice service for the elderly. Long Term Independence Planning will be staffed mostly by people close to or past

 $\leq \eta_{k}\,.$

Keith Hagar, 67, will be among them. Like his 16 fellow advisers, Mr Hagar will be authorised by the Personal Investment Authority. Mr Hagar, who was formerly a Diplomatic Service officer, said: "My age makes people feel more comfortable. They feel more at ease with someone who is more mature."

The launch of the service has been prompted by the number of requests for financial help received by Help the Aged's information helpline. Almost half of the 60,000 people who contact Seniorline each year have concerns about finance, with many worrying about how to pay for long term care.

One of the special responsibilities of Long Term Independent Planning will be to offer advice on the financial aspects of long-term care, including the specialised insurance policies covering the cost of going into a home.

Help the Aged said: "After discussing each person's par-ticular needs, the adviser will prepare a personalised report with various options. The advice is confidential and free of charge. The aim of the adviser is always to provide the best . possible advice.;

The service will rely on funding from the commission generated from products sold. The financial consultants have also received training on the

Help the Aged estimates that about one million pensioners do not claim the benefits to which they are

The service will also help pensioners, their families and

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Anyone contacting the ser-vice helpline will initially be asked to complete a questionnaire. Christine Cryne, head of commerce and corporate fundraising at Help the Aged said: "Once the form is completed ... an adviser is put in contact with the person. According to the complexity of the issues, a discussion can take place either over the telephone or a face-to-face interview is arranged."

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Sara McConnell takes Abbey National to task over advertising campaign

New-look Tessa is such a tease



bbey National admit-ted this week that its claim of a potential return of 198 per cent over five linked Tessa will be impossible to achieve on past market

The new Tessa is being extensively advertised, as millions of savers consider their options after the maturing of 62 billion of first-generation Tessa accounts. Abbey's Tessa promises a return of 100 per cent of capital, plus potential returns of up to 98 per cent. But savers will achieve this

return only if two market indices, the FT-SE 100 and the S&P 500 in the US, both rise every month for five years. This has never happened since the FT-SE 100 was created in 1984. according to Micropal, the specialist market statistics analysts. Six months is the longest that both have risen

But Charles Pinder, Abbey's director of savings and investments, said the use of the figure "must be seen in the context of the sales process". He said: "If we were allowing people to infer that this return is what they could reasonably expect, we could be criticised, but there is no obfuscation, no hiding away. No one can invest in this Tessa off the page. The application form only comes with a detailed brochure." The account is fully explained by branch staff, he added.

Savers in the Tessa will earn interest on their investment at a rate of 1.15 per cent in any month in which both indices rise by any amount. If one or both the indices fall or stay the same there will be no earned it cannot be taken away. If both indices fall or stagnate consistently over the five-year investment period. savers could find themselves with nothing more to show for their investment after five years than the capital they invested in the first place.

If the Abbey's stock market



Professor Antony Allott was amazed when the Personal Investment Authority said the stock market Tessa is a savings product and not its responsibility teed. As such, they are not the

year, the actual return would have been 46 per cent, less than half the 98 per cent mentioned in the Abbey's advertisment. Savers would £13,125, including their capital investment of £9,000. A return of 98 per cent would have given them a total of £17,873. Since 1984, the average return over any five-year period

would have been £12,776. These figures assume the whole £9,000 is put into the Tessa immediately. But only those with maturing firstgeneration Tessas can do this. Those just starting to invest in a Tessa can put only £3.000 year because of Inland Revenue restrictions. The remaining £6,000 goes into a feeder

net of tax, not gross as in the Tessa. Abbey has not calculated the potential return for first-generation Tessas, sayically complex. But it agreed the return would be lower than for savers able to invest the whole amount.

responsibility of the Personal Investment Authority. Banks and building societies which sell stock market-linked Tessas are not bound by the PIA's marketing rules. But Professor Antony Allott, a Times reader from

6 There are gaps in the protection offered to potential customers **9**

Stock market Tessas like the Abbey's are not considered investments under the Financial Services Act, even on the performance of the stock market. They are considered deposits because the return of capital is guaran-

Banbury, Oxfordshire, is one investor who believes this is illogical. He complained to the PIA that Abbey's advertisement was misleading. But the PIA told him the Tessa was a savings product and not Allott said: "I had thought this was an investment linked to the stock market. After all the advertisement said so, using the word 'investment' four times, 'stock market' six times, 'invest' twice and 'investors'

and 'investing' once each."
The Banking Ombudsman,
who investigates disputes between banks and their customers can act only if the complaint involves an existregulate bank advertising.

Professor Allott concluded: There are obvious gaps in the protection offered to potential customers who may be beguiled by misleading marketing

Mr Pinder denied the ad-

people. It is our job to sell the product homestly." Abbey is not bound by the PIA's rules, said Mr Pinder, but it would sell customers unsuitable savings accounts and endanger the bank's reputation.

Independent financial advisers are becoming uneasy about stock market-linked Tessas. James Higgins, of 🔓 Chamberlain de Broe, said: These accounts are loosely regulated and there is scope for misunderstanding. What you are doing with the Abbey Tessal is potentially giving away all your growth. There are certain people who should be told there is a risk and that £2,000 or £3,000 that they would get in an ordinary

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Source Micropal, in a bid to bid bass with grown income reinvested from 01.11.9% to 01.11.9% since hunch. (This makes no altowance for any management charges which are applicable to a PEP but our charges would not significantly after the performance disparity. Per performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount prested Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory charge. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs intersting which in unit trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01.11.96. For your protection calls will usually be recorded and transloanty monitored, legal & General (Inecct) Limited Registered in England No. 3702000. Registered Office: Temple Court. 11 Queen Victoria Street, London ECAN 417 Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRA for the purposes of recommending advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name

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while Gavin Lumsden reiterates a previous wealth warning



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Don't be fooled by bond sales patter

lies, and then there are statistics from guaranteed and high-income bond providers. Last month the Institate of Actuaries attacked life companies and bancassurers over the figures they use to market their products.

With offers of up to 10.5 per cent annual income and/or high growth plus capital security after five years, these bonds have become extremely popular as interest rates have languished in recent years.

of Scotland and the Royal Bank Institutions such as the Bank of Scotland have launched high-income bonds alongside Eurolife, Financial Assurance, Hamilton Life, Swiss Life, Friends Provident, Millennium Life, General Accident and Scottish Life International, raising hundreds of millions of

But the institute believes many savers may be maware of the extent to which their capital may be at risk From the start, all high income bonds have linked capital protection to the performance of a stock market index, typically the FTto the US S&P 500 has been added as product providers rates in the low interest

Typically, savers are prom-ised all their capital back if the FT-SE 100 or the S&P 500 grow over the term, or 50 per cent return of capital if either falls by 5 per cent or more. But what has really upset the actuaries is the frequent statement by life companies that "neither index has fallen over any of the 1,740 five-year periods [when a fiveyear period can start on each.

working day of each year] since

duced in 1984".

The institute says that focusing on the past 12 years has been a period of exceptional growth with low inflation. It points to the fact that since 1974 there has actually been a 23 per

capital security if either the FT-SE 100 or S&P 500 do not fall during the period - and it plans to use the problematic sentence. Alan Gill, head of product design and marketing, said: "We're not trying to pull

The product is based on the FT-

SE 100, which began in 1984.

The statement that it hasn't

fallen for 1,740 five-year peri-

ods is fact. We always add the

caveat that past performance is

never a guide to the future." -However, Peter Norwell,

chairman of the institute and

says bond providers should

show market performance over

a longer period. He said:

There are a lot of indices that

go a lot further back than 1984."

Other product providers

seem to want to instil historical

amnesia in their customers.

Mark Joannes, group director

for personal investments at

Financial Assurance, said: "I'm

not sure how what happened in

the 1930s says anything about

today's economic conditions."

Friends Provident has just

closed a higher-income bond offering 10.5 per cent annual

income if the FT-SE 100 and

S&P do not fall over five years.

Chris Bridge, actuarial manag-

er in product development, said the company is reviewing

whether to include pre-1984 figures in its literature. There

is a danger if it is mis-sold and

people are reliant on getting the

capital back at the end. We

wouldn't want to sell to people

The Personal investment Au-

thority has said that it will issue

new guidance to the industry

who couldn't take that risk."

skruaries warn on bond guarantees

Institute of Actiones has "Marketing material makes the summer about great play of the fact that the Double warning: how we have twice highlighted the problem

cent chance of either one of the indices falling over five years. Going back to 1924, it points out that the UK market alone has fallen in 26 per cent of fiveyear periods.

Paul Grace, of Scottish Equitable and the institute, is particularly concerned by those products which offer a guaran-tee. The use of the word a reasonable level. They are not guaranteed as they ultimately depend on the performance of

the market." But Andrew Barrie, of Barrie & Hibbert, an Edinburgh actuary, says savers intending to spend the income particularly need to appreciate the true points out that there were just two separate five-year periods

since 1984. Royal Scottish, a Bank of Scotland subsidiary, is launching a five-year bond paying 8

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CHASE DE VERE

Marianne Curphey examines a new product with a money-back feature



Talking point: a lot of customers discovered they were paying very high charges

Eagle Star goes for guaranteed pensions

general insurance arm of BAT Industries, has launched the first UK pension with a money-back guarantee. It will be sold over the telephone and will reimburse customers who wish to transfer to another pension provider within two years.

Life insurers have traditionally imposed heavy penalties on customers who stop or transfer out of their personal pension in the early years. They defend this by saying that the start-up costs of a personal pension are high. Eagle Star's Managed Pen-

sion Fund will not impose an early surrender penalty. However, the company expects fewer than 5 per cent of customers to take up the offer, which suggests that it does not anticipate losing much money via the guarantee. All fees and charges will be refunded and the current market value of the pension transferred to

vider. Many other poli-People have been cies have a first two years. The pler pension product will be available direct by

frightened off after publicity on mis-selling of personal pension plans

telephone and is part of BAT Industries drive to increase its share of the financial services market. BAT may demerge its financial services division and is believed to have discussed selling part of it to Commercial Union, the

composite insurer. Virgin Direct, the financial services arm of Richard Branson's Virgin empire. which also sells personal pensions by telephone, dismissed he policy as "a gimmick"

Like Virgin's personal pension. Eagle Star charges a £2 monthly fee and a 1 per cent annual management fee. Unlike the majority of personal pension plans, there is no bidoffer spread on units bought and no initial charge (known in the industry as the alloca-

tion rate) for either plan. Virgin entered the personal pensions market last November, saying consumers mis-trusted the life insurance industry and claiming its simple products with transparent charges would revolutionise the market. Its pension fund, like its personal equity plan, aims to track the FT-SE All-Share index.

Certainly many consumers are still reluctant to commit themselves to such a longterm financial plan and have been frightened by publicity over mis-selling of personal pensions in the 1980s. Martin Campbell, Virgin's product development manager, said he did not believe a two-year refund was necessary. "Peop have a cooling-off period if they wish to change their mind," he said. But he welcomed Eagle Star's attempts to clarify the pensions' complex charging structures.

The lack of decent products from the pensions industry is a bit of a disgrace. A lot of people have let their pension lapse in the past because they bought it under pressure and they might not have fully

were takins on. Some of subsequentered that they

cial magazine Money Marketing, Eagle Star's with profits fund is currently languishing at the bottom of the performance table. In the five years to April 1996, the most recent performance information, Eagle Star came 29th out of 30 companies for a man aged 60 month. The managed (unitlinked) fund came 15th out of 43 companies for the five years to July 1996 for a male aged 60 paying £50 a month. The best performing man-aged fund was Skandia Life.

A recent report by Which? the magazine of the Consumers' Association, said most personal pension plans were rip-off because of high charges. But independent financial advisers say some plans with low charges still trail those with big set-up fees because of poor performance.

and CIS the best with-profits

WHAT EVERYONE OUGHT TO KNOW BEFORE INVESTING IN A PEP...

WHEN every High Street Bank. Investment Company, and a hundred other institutions seem to be offering financial products of every kind. and when one of the most popular of those is the Personal Equity Plan or PEP, it's worth taking a brief look at the basics of saving your money - and how a PEP might or might not benefit you as an investor.

When you are planning an investment you need to think about two things

"Why you are recesting your money?"

"How long would you like to invest your money for."

For example, if you are saying money as a secure way of dealing with unexpected outgoings triat framy day it you are probably better off considering a traditional bank or building society high

lakewise, if you are saving up for a single major purchase, such as a car, or improvements to your home, once again a maditional bank or building society high interest account may be the best option There are no surprises here, his most people do

however, have the his an homenta, but how, over the longer term, they can be out from stock market green appending the paper of the analysis of the larger er im Alexagler retiren have been better.

Our meanth mass that was people really and change when they are investige in sand that s a residue to the the residue and even principal increasing William away to a new find the following here is planation of value appears grouse what is

WHY INVEST IN THE STOCK MARKET?

To look at the Stock Material as an investment prospect from an one of the interesting angle lask controls

Meaning of the area allowed to account with the least would be obtained that the place in a commence of the professionals.

After 40 med and their epister potent more parties, than the mid-mal rata makes up a criteribecause the sum whose a contentions term return.

Again to head in time, the suith maps that pursies and other passed more from can allow to all interest to great it in a confirmation of people who produces such and ensures that constants one Agreement to the state of the second second $S_{t,t}(I(p)\hat{P}(t), P(p), p(t), r(t)) = \inf_{t \in \mathcal{T}} S_{t,t}(r(p), p(p)) \in \mathcal{A}_{t}$

DOES SUCCESS EQUAL MONEY?

So, it is their right for a company to pursue, it most a paratic rate projet from it in eds in particle in back in interest. Some or opinion record in particutheir interest to their book and generating prints a per lame don't

Naturally those tempents that concrete the most spectacular profes are often those that take the ment tilks. And of some specialists ananoal returns can be garned by producing the new great business only we had meantable, the relavery leak-ray approach

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DON'T PUT ALL YOUR EGGS

While re-nemione the need to seread the tisks, must people don't have the time of the access to detailed ormation that would enable them to decide which company or range of companies will offer the best

Which is who they approach organisations such as Jugal & Control Investment Management, and when they do make such an approach they are presented with a straightforward choice

THE FUND MANAGER ROUTE

select shares that he believes will rise in value more and more consistently -

Before you consider a PEP that might be managed actively by a fund manager, it may be useful to know more about the environment within which fund managers work-and about the basis upon which they make their decisions

Assessing, as fund managers do, the way in which the market moves, it's important to hold a little more closely into the factors that influence those share movements.

SO, WHAT MAKES A SHARE PRICE MONE?

The emperation charges are their managers and populated toxonors to generally a control danvenium. Whomas remainstrates a little person is value

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becamble to perprise may even thanks are Questionly by educate the new trade and ex-

soil call a piece greater personner or than the

HOWEVER ...

It is extremely unusual that any one fund manage can regularly outperform the average performance of the market as a whole.

> WHY DON'T FUND MANAGERS ALWAYS

OUTPERFORM THE MARKET?

a norshell, or order to achieve marker (for example, small companies) and a tund manager needs to know that section of the

Even the best fund manager cannot provide a good return if his market sector is underperforming

FOR EXAMPLE...

So, if you have selected a fund which invests in smaller companies, you must accept that the fund manager is only allowed to invest in smaller companies and must do so through that and then

le as therefore may investment decision as to whither you want to be in that part of the market or not

The benefit for you as an investor is that by being whetere about the area of the market and the shares in which you invest some money you can achieve returns that are higher than the

But of course, what investors must remember, is that making these selective decisions means that you the investor are exposing yourself to higher calls.

FINE!

It on have the capital security to be able to shrite. at the risk you should have no quains about this torm of work market investment

However of you are looking for greater security, it may be advisable to consider. .

THE TRACKER ROUTE

In contrast to a fund manager, who seeks to select shares that will outperform the market, a tracker fund provides a return

It does this by investing in ...il the companies in the speck market - or a specience with of those companies.

By investing in this was, the investor avrids subjective judgement

And there are practical reasons to asked the subjectives associated with final managers

TRACKING THE FTSE ALL-SHARE INDEX...

The performance of the dock mark, the measured be an indicate that he had been a majoring of their performance to the LTM, AlbShare Louisy.

The index is callulated by combining the price mesonants of all the dates have done to London Stock I change on proportion to the size of the originals the expression

In the new the measurement in a large companies that is true has a proportionardy larger orest on the movement of the males than that of a

under one year, but underperform the next, tracker consistently above the majorary of other funds

AN IMPORTANT COST CONSIDERATION...

Obviously, because a reacker load doesn't involve the expense of obtaining detailed information on the mission in which it misors, at the expense of analysis to interpret that information, or the expense of managers to make decisions based upon that information and analysis, outside actionable bear.

on after the deduction of fund manager costs A tracker fund will typically have an animal management charge of between 0.5 and 1% - whereas most actively managed funds will deduce charges of Detween Land 15%.

The amalatte diet of they reduced thereo. an see the part agripmently affect returns

As two tracker hands will have, by definition, very similar performance therapse bork follow the same index), the main differentiator will be not as expressed in charge. Therefore, the find with the heart charges would be expected to the on the enance return to the investor.

WHAT DOES IT. ALL MEAN?

Unit simple, rose the investor, need to consider, as an mentioned in the beginning of this arricle. the research for your investment and what you

It a PEP myestment is the right choice for you, the two most popular options are just acrossly managed final or an index-tracking final

An actively managed total can provide a return in excess of the market but carries with it the attendant risks associated with selecting self those shine, which the fund manager believes will currecturin the market

A tracker fund makes no attempt to comperform the market but provides a return or low with

DECISION TIME...

thus the do used that their the investor is beening the reliable above average performance as an unles

against the more volunte but potentially more reacting performance of an actuely managed hand

for many people this is not a difficult decision. An aids stracking found is the logical change for cubes the first-time investor or as the core of a larger portfolio. A rively managed funds can then be used in addition to try and give the metall, performance a basis. This is the way many large investment torals such as persoon funds operate, saving money and maning boost exposure to a market ris the indexrinking find, whilst making forces into specific areas or sectors car an actively managed fined.

We hope that this brief discussion of PEP assistment has proved at use- and should we be able to other you turner explanation, please than t he atate to teleplame us free on usun 116022. A member at our Legal & tricuelle, proposional ream will be more than happy to help General

with your enquiry. Ref AlDLie

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Essential reading goes for homeowners

Suarante New YEAR Deposition of the professional problem as include:

Pension P

Take a close look

at your annual statement because

it could prove

to be a rewarding experience, says

Sara McConnell

Millions of homeowners will be receiving their annual mortgage statements over the next few weeks as building societies start a new financial year. Many will give the statement no more than a fleeting glance before tucking it away in a

However, two Weekend Money readers who did check their statement have just been refunded a total of £4,000 by the Nationwide Building Soc ety in wrongly charged buildings insurance premiums.

After the intervention of The Times this week; the Nationwide agreed to pay compensation of £500 for costs, loss of interest and inconvenience on top of the £3,500 in wrongly debited premiums it had already refunded.

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Other costly mistakes are almost certainly waiting to be discovered by those who resolve to sit down and check their statements as a new

mortgage year starts.

Nationwide admitted that it had wrongly set up buildings insurance in 1991 for Radhika Holmström and Paul Anderson when they bought their flat in south London. The couple's solicitor, who was also acting for the Nationwide, had told the society that buildings insurance was arranged by the freeholder of the block containing their leasehold flat. This is common practice in leasehold



Just her cup of tea: Radhika Holmström checked her statement and gained a £4,000 refund from Nationwide

blocks. However, the society made an administrative error and set up insurance. The Nationwide deducted premiums for four years before the mistake was discovered.

Ms Holmström admitted that she should have checked the annual mortgage statements on which the premiums appeared. However, she was angry that once the mistake was discovered, the Nationwide took seven months to sort

out its error. Its adminstrative mistakes included sending out identical forms to be filled in as soon as the couple returned a completed first set.

Buildings insurance will not be included on mortgage statements unless it is organised by the lender. So check if you see premiums have been deducted and you have insurance organised elsewhere or by - someone else However insurance is not always included on

mortgage statements when provided by the lender. The Abbey National deliberately keeps records of premiums separately so that it can keep

Other potential problem ar-

Interest rates. The main part of the mortgage statement shows what interest you have paid on your loan during the year, and at what rate. Make sure you are paying the right rate for your level of loan because some lenders charge different rates depending on how much you originally borrowed. If you have since paid off some of your loan, you should still be paying the rate for the original level. Check you have been receiving fixed rates or discounts for the period you expected.

If you have a repayment loan, your outstanding debt at the end of the year should be lower than the debt at the beginning. If you have an endowment, pension, Pep or interest-only loan, the debt will be about the same unless you have paid off some of your capital.

■ Tax relief on mortgage interest. This is calculated by the lender and should be included in the amount of interest you are paying. You are allowed tax relief at 15 per cent on the first £30,000 of interest. You are only allowed relief on your principal residence, so if you have more than one property you should be getting relief on only one. The only time you can get Miras on more than one property is if you can show you are trying to sell one of them, in which case you can get relief for however long it akes to sell.

E Capital repayments. If you have repaid some of your mortgage in the past year, check that your interest has been recalculated to take it into account. Lenders distinguish between a part-repayment, where you pay off a lump sum (often a minimum of £500) and overpayments. Most major lenders will now credit partrepayments immediately, as long as you explain that the payment is to reduce your mortgage

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JOIN THE WORLD'S NOT

Adam Jones asks whether it is worth supporting an investment fund devoted to our national game

Football crazy, or on to a winner?

i wasn't the best week to launch a fund investing in football clubs, especially if you'd hoped to attract investors from the North East.

Kevin Keegan's unexpected resignation from Newcastle United was blamed on bankers who wanted the unsettled manager to leave before the club floated. Fans were left to question whether the increasingly close relationship between football and the stock market was an entirely good thing - just as the Singer & Friedlander Football Fund was being unveiled.

The fund is the first to devote itself to football clubs and associated companies. such as kit manufacturers and building firms involved in stadium work.

Momentum launched its Premier Sports fund eight months ago, investing in a broad range of sporting stocks, it has grown by 60 per cent already.

In addition to being more specific, the Football Fund says it is going to be much larger, with £30 million hoped for initially. It will have a highprofile consultant in the form of Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool player and current Match of the Day analyst. who will advise on a team's prospects on the nitch.

It is also among the first



What's in a name: the departure of key personnel, such as Manchester United's Eric Cantona, could affect a club's shares

wave of open-ended investment company funds - a variation on unit trusts with a single price for buying and selling, introduced this month.

In the light of the Keegan resignation. Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander Investment Funds, denied that football clubs were more vulnerable

than other companies to the departure of key personnel, saving: "Newcastle United is still there as a solid business."

But there remains another anxiety about pooled investment in football. Some club shares trade on the main market, notably Manchester United Others trade on the Alternative Investment Marbasis on Ofex. These include Arsenal and Liverpool. Availability of the Ofex shares could be problematic. Faced with a fund manager who has to unload some of his newly collected millions into a narroy sector, prices could be inflated. The Football Fund claims it

will get around this by buying

themselves if they want indirect exposure to the sector. The

recent performance of con-

reserve stock from newly floated clubs. Shares on the periphery of the football sector are another solution - these will be the first bought by the fund. The aim is to have 45 to 55 per cent in UK clubs eventually. But investors must ask struction company shares will not have matched that of the clubs themselves. For instance, £L000 invested in Celtic at the start of 1996 would have grown to £5,877 by the end of the year. There aren't that many Celtic shares, so prices jumps are magnified. Investors must also consider

whether the huge growth in club shares will continue. The City has woken up to football. Although there is still growth potential, with full pay-per-view TV yet to be introduced and many more clubs intending to list, the most lucrative club — Manchester United is already out there.

Mr Fraher says the fund is not entering at the top of the market. "We're still at the ground floor level." However, inger & Friedlander's promotional literature lists certain clubs, such as Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers, as having an intention to be quoted on the main market, when there has been no such public

The minimum investment in the Football Fund is £1,000, with the option of a £50 per week savings scheme. An initial charge of 4.5 per cent is levied, with an annual man-

igement fee of 1.5 per cent. The fund manager will be James Cotton, who runs the Singer & Friedlander smaller companies trust.

Housebuyers take heed of the great rate debate

Thich way will mort- Mortgage lenders set their ingage rates move this year? With the renewed movement in the housing market, this is a question new buyers have to address. Is it best to lock into a fixed

rate in anticipation of a rise? Mortgage costs are currently close to their lowest point in 30 years. Or is a variable rate mortgage a better deal? They are generally less likely to penalise early redemption of the loan and have an obvious superiority if interest rates

come down. Speculation about interest rates has a strong political flavour this year. The alleged danger of higher mortgage rates under a Labour government is at the heart of a Conservative advertising campaign. Its billboards claim New Labour, new mortgage risk

And in one of five campaign pledges made at the end of 1996. John Major said the Conservá-

tive Party

mitted to

"affordable

mortgages".

the Govern-

ment has something

to shout about in

bringing mortgage

Demand for fixed rates suggests borrowers are not particularly worried about the next five years

costs to their lowest level in 30 years. However, kneejerk anxiety about a

misplaced.

Interest rates are likely to go
up, whichever party is in
power, to keep inflation in check during any recovery in consumer spending. The election could be a red herring beside this consideration.

Jonathan Loynes, an economist at HSBC Markets, says: "If you had no general election this year, I wouldn't have thought the consensus fore-cast on interest rates from the City would be that different."

That consensus -- an average of economists' predictions is that the base rate in the fourth quarter of 1997 will be 7:16 per cent, compared with a current rate of 6 per cent. A new set of predictions to be canvassed later this month are likely to be a little larger, but the anticipated rise should still be relatively modest.

Sterling futures — financial instruments traded on an anticipated future value of the pound - are currently being priced on the assumption that three-month interest rates mot the same as the hase rate) will also be about 1 per cent more in December.

For borrowers at the end of the financial food chain, the rise could be broadly similar.

house standard variable rates above the base level. At the moment, they typically range from about 6.3 per cent to about 7.5 per cent. The most popular standard variable rate tends to be 7.25 per cent.

Using the consensus predic tion, borrowers could-expect to pay about 1 per cent more on their mortgages. That means a £37.92 monthly increase on a typical Nation-wide interest-only £50,000

mortgage.
The City predictions on which the consensus figure is based will have taken into account any possible changes of government. It is broadly assumed that Labour will follow the cautious, anti-inflationary economics pursued by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancel lor. This explains why the City did not allow the "New Labour, new mortgage risk school of thought to inflate its expectations of the coming

even a sug-gestion that Labour will hold a Budafter the election nuty to tightpolicy even

mand for fixed-rate mortgages suggests that borrowers are not particularly worried about the next five years, the period which would encompass the first term of a Labour

government. Simon Tyler, of Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, says the greatest demand is for two-year fixed terms. The cost of taking one out has risen accordingly. Five-year fixed rates, however, have decreased in cost because of weaker demand.

Well before the election, Mr Clarke will be facing pressure to raise interest rates. The change could come as early as January 15, when he meets Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England. Mr George made it clear at their last meeting that he wanted a

rate in excess of 6 per cent.

It is conceivable that Mr Clarke could delay an increase until February, citing the strength of sterling as a counterbalance to the inflationary threat provided by consumer recovery. But delaying a rate rise until two months or so before an election could work against the Government. Political expediency may rule out such a

ADAM JONES

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INCOME PEP



Hopes dashed: Corporate bond Peps were launched as ideal investments for the elderly, but yields have since fallen

I orporate bond personal equity plans were launched in a hiaze of publicity 18 months ago. They were sold as being the ideal investmen for the elderly, as they offered a way of giving high tax-free income, with some possibility of capital growth, in a market where building society returns were ever

However, 18 months after their unveiling, do they live up to the hype? At launch many were predicting they could offer yields of up to 9 per cent - representing extra annual tax-free income of about £540, or more than a £1,000 if a husband and wife invested the maximum allowed under the Pep rules. An extra £1,000 a year in tax-free income would be an attractive prospect for many pensioners.

The amount yielded by corporate bond Peps is now considerably lower than was at first predicted. The yield on corporate bonds, preference shares, convertibles and gilts - all of which are used by the managers of corporate bonds — are directly linked to interest rates. If interest

have fallen, so yields have fallen. According to the January issue of Money Management, yields on corporate bond

4.5

tres erstrement then!

HIGH INCOMENT

Peps now stand at between 5 and 9 per cent, with most about 7.5 per cent. In most cases, the level of income paid by the Pep will be directly related to the level of risk. Money Management found that two of the highest yielding Peps are offered by Abtrust and Henderson — both have yields of 9 per cent.

However, these high yields are not generated by corporate bonds, despite the name of the product, but instead are generated by preference or convertible shares, which are a higher-risk investment than corporate bonds.

sum of £1,000 invested in the Abtrust Pep five years ago would now be worth £2,084, including the income; the same amount invested in the Henderson Pep would now be worth £1,747. The total income paid by both Peps on £1,000 over the five-year period would be £514 and £586 respectively.

Over the same period, Guinness

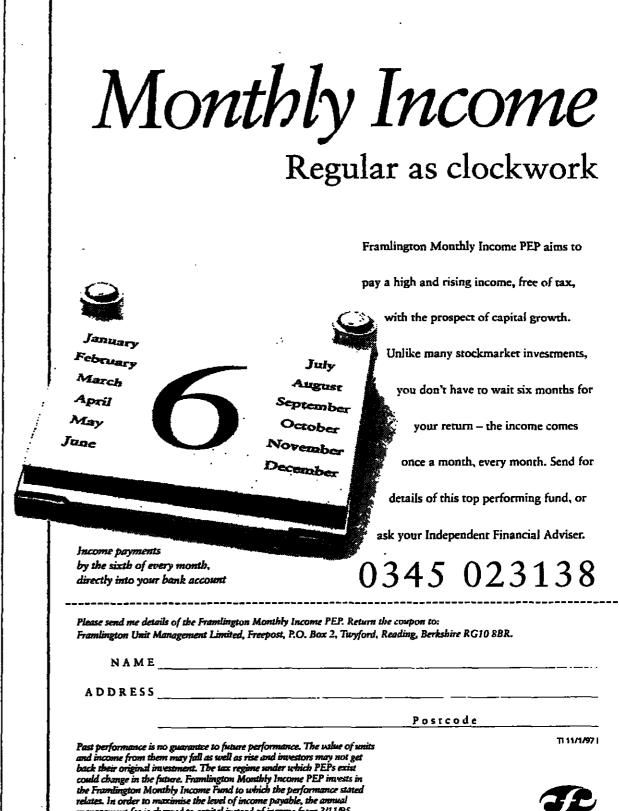
Flight's Corporate Bond Pep, as the name rates rise, so will rigids. The name bonds of sales in the past 18 months interest rates paid out a total of \$402 in the past 18 months interest rates. according to the survey - considerably less than the other two Peps.

Money Management ranked the more

recent corporate bond Pep launches according to income generated. Over the past 12 months, of the newer entrants to the market, the highest income was paid by the Pembroke High Income fund. It generated £93 of income on an investment of £1,000 - again the yield was generated by the Pep's high predominance of convertible shares. The lowest income was generated by the Hambros High Provider Pep and the Colonial High Income Pep, both with £53 of income over the year per £1,000 invested.

Savers shopping round for a corporate bond Pep should pay special attention to the charges made on the products, and from where the charges are deducted. Most of the Pep providers will take the charges from the income provided, while some will take it from the capital generated. If high income is a priority, with return of capital less of a priority, then Peps from Pembroke, Abrust and and Britannia could be considered.

However, advisers say investors must look at the effect of charges over a long period. The highest charging managers include Singer & Friedlander, Edinburgh Fund Managers and Pembroke while the lowest-charging groups include Virg-in, Sun Alliance and Guinness Flight.



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Caroline Merrell looks at a new season of offerings from fund managers

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Take a plunge into Peps

season ends, the personal equity plan season begins. Aiready two of the UK's biggest fund managers have unveiled their annual Pep offerings. The new schemes aim to attract millions of pounds in what many will believe could be a bumper Pep year. More people than usual may take the plunge in to personal equity plans because of the proximity of the election. A Labour government may not be as generous in the tax breaks for Peps as

past Tory governments.

Among those first off the blocks was Schroders Investment Management. The investment house is offering two options for its investors. One will aim to give investors high income, while the other will concentrate on capital growth.

The growth Pep will invest in three unit trusts which each have slightly different invest-ment philosphies. The three funds are the Schroder Small-

pean Smaller Companies fund and the Schroder Pacific Growth trust - £6,000 invested in a Pep five years ago would now be worth around £14,500.

The income Pep is aimed at investors who are concerned about increasing expenses as they get older. According to Micropal, the statistics com-pany, if savers had put £6,000 in the plan ten years ago, the starting income would have begun at £267 and risen to £665 by year ten.

Jason Holland, of Best Investment, said he thought that packaging the unit trusts to-gether was a good idea. He said he believed the three trusts selected would be growth areas next year. He added: "We favour smaller companies. Europe and Asia

and the Pacific Basin." Minimum investment in the income Pep is £3,000, and in the growth Pep it is £6,000 - £2,250 of which is invested in

funds, while the remaining £1,500 is invested in the Pacific Growth fund. The initial charge on both Peps is 3.25 per cent, while the annual charges on the growth Pep are 1.5 per cent on the two smaller companies' trusts and L25 per cent on the Schroder Pacific Growth fund. The annual charge on the income fund is

1.25 per cent. Perpetual, another leading investment house, also revealed its Pep offering this week. The World Income Pep. will invest in a wide range of international equities and will aim to generate an income of 4 per cent. Minimum investment will be £500. The fund will also be available for monthly investments as low as £20 per month.

Mr Holland said: though the Perpetual's performance dropped off at the beginning of last year, it has now shown some signs of

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Schroder	68	87	74	2.7	25	19	22	12	11	13
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Gold investments have lost their shine

old has certainly lost its allure. Over the past year, the price has fallen by around 15 per cent from a peak of \$417 per ounce to \$355 (Caroline

Merrell writes).
The price fall has been reflected in falls in gold min-ing shares and in the funds that invest in these shares. For instance, a El00 investment in the E200 million Mercury Gold & General at the beginning of last year would now be worth only £84. Graham Birch, the manager

of the fund, said the price of gold had peaked earlier in 1996, but since then had dropped almost continuously. He said: "Gold does not behave like other commodities. When the price falls, those that are short or; gold buy up stock. When it rises, those who hold too nsuch sell."

At the beginning of last year. analysts predicted that the price of gold and other inetals would rise because of the pointed out that gold has a in the Ear East. Growin wealth in China, Korea, Tai wan and the Philippines was expected to increase demand. for gold and, therefore, the

price was expected to rise. However, Mr Birch said other forces had come in to play during the year. "Many of the central banks have stores of gold," he said. they tend to sell off their gold

reserves. Governments have also being selling off gold to try to satisfy the Maastrict treaty by cutting debts. Russia and Canada sold off gold last

Year." The value of shares in goldmines will fall to a much greater extent than the gold price itself. Mr Birch said: Every 10 per cent fall in the gold price will produce a 30 per cent fall in the shares, and over 85 per cent of the fund is invested in gold shares."

Mr Birch said that investment in a gold fund is very high-risk. "A gold fund should only comprise about 2.5 per cent of anyone's portfolio." He said that the latest figures showed that demand for gold was rising, which could push up the price.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Financial services reforms are overdue

From Mr J. H. Chapman Sir, May 1 suggest that reform of financial services practices should be a priority for 1997?

At the national level, an efficient and trusted savings and investment industry should be a key element in our long-term growth and prosperity. At the personal level, individuals should be able to choose good value products with the confidence that they will be treated fairly.

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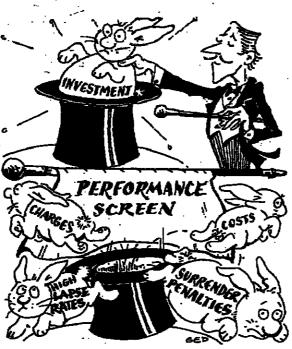
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We are some way from such national and personal goals. For illustration, I have set out several shortcomings in our dominant personal finance industry, life insur-

ance and pensions. About £5 billion a year, or two thirds of the annual costs of this industry, goes in acquisition expenses - in commissions and advertising and other spend to persuade people to buy these products. inevitably such costs make the value of many products questionable or indisputably

Costs vary greatly between. companies, and charges to consumers within policies then also vary greatly. Companies adopt various ruses to hide high charges. There is widespread manipulation of charges and surrender penalties to project or achieve high maturity payouts and the illusion of good value.

But with the greater majority of policies not going to maturity the spotlight should be on early and mid-way surrender or transfer values, as well as maturity values: A further important feature is the striking differ-



ences in the incidence of charges between companies. Some companies impose their charges gradually, while others make their profits as quickly as possible through high early charges and surrender penalties. The resulting low early surrender values are simply pitfalls for an unwary populace.

Where such pitfall products are sold with high lapse rates, many and probably most of policyholders so trapped actually lose money by taking out their pension plans. For them the net result is simply a transfer of money to an insurance company and to the sales people who persuaded them to buy.

The role of investment

paraded to obscure the key messages about charges and pitfall products. But no one can predict which investment team will outperform the others over the next five years, let alone over 25 years. Moreover, if a high charge company is to overcome its charging handicap, it may have to achieve an investment performance I per cent a year, or even 2 per cent a year, better than lower charge compenitors. Over 25 years, such a superior invest-

performance is sometimes

improbable. At the Office of Fair Trading, I drafted successive reports — Fair Trading and Life Insurance, The Surrender Values of Life Insurance Policies. Mortgage Repay-ment Methods and Health Insurance. Such reports have led to some improvements. perhaps notably the disclosure of the effects of charges. But the messages from such disclosure have yet to get through to consumers. Consequently, the questionable or damaging practices of this industry have changed little.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Unlike other sectors investigated, there appears to be a belief that the industry is so strong and practices so well entrenched that it can "tough out" any criticisms. There are excellent individuals and companies who readily distance themselves from malpractices. Overall, however, any reformist lobby among the companies is invisible or non-existent. Indeed progress towards

improvements are snail-like with PIA reports showing little or no change in persistency rates, and with a flow of revelations about such matters as extra charges that are heaped on policies when the inflow of premiums is

interrupted.
Widespread reforms are needed, including the developments of a rating system. warnings about pitfall products, more openness about the operations of with-profits policies, and an overhaul of the description and links of financial advisers.

Who will bring about the reforms necessary - Govment performance is highly emment, the regulators, or the media? Yours faithfully JOHN CHAPMAN, 8 Makepeace Avenue. Highgate, No.

You won't need a tax accountant . . .

From Ms S. Singleton Sir, I read Denis Fuller's letter (Self-assessment shock awaits the complacent. December 141 on Anne Ashworth's self-assessment article with a wry

smile.

Yes, self-assessment will involve sume additional burden on taxpayers, but no taxpayer will have to calculate their own tax bills provided they submit their returns in time.

Some accountants misleadingly indicate otherwise. Those of us who quite competently complete our tax returns without paying an accountant a penny will, largely, be perfectly competent to continue to do so, with assistance from the Inland Revenue. whose helpful information to

date is much appreciated. Many of us already keep full records of expenses for tax

purposes and will find no difficulty in ensuring we receive the correct forms in due course. Do not be scared into engaging an accountant unnecessarily.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN SINGLETON, Singletons Solicitors. Eagle House, 67 Brooke Avenue, Harrow.



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option. Nil stockmarket grow is required for fall capital retur

... Oh yes you will

From Mr H. Cartwright Sir, Someone should advise Mr Richard Read (Self-assessment of tax and the issue of statements of accounts, Weekend Money Letters, January 4) and for that matter everyone else on payments required under self-assessment.

Clearly he is in receipt of untaxed income and/or property income. Before self-assessment, the tax on this income was due in one instalment on January 1 during the tax year based on income received in the previous tax year. The same basis applies for the transitional year 1996-97 except the full tax based on the previous year is owing by January 31, a delay of 30 days. These payments on account will be split on a 50:50 basis for 1997-98 onwards. Without going into fine detail, you can reduce interim payments for 1996-97 if your actual liability is going to be less.

There is one concession for the 1996-97 payments on account where assessments on untaxed interest or property income for 1995-96 were finalised between June I and November 1 1996, the payments on account are split in two. This concession is because of a computer programming error. The Inland Revenue is still changing the rules as it finds the practical problems have not been thought through and Mr Read's final paragraph is correct.

7

I have tried telephoning the Revenue this year to find that most of them are still enjoying a winter break and with the most important change ever in taxation about to bite, they remain unavailable to assist I am afraid that the general

nublic is not going to cope with self-assessment and will have to employ accountants. Yours faithfully. HUGH CARTWRIGHT, 22 Shrewsbury Mews,

THE VALUE BOND PEP

Better value all round for tax-free income.

Corporate Bond PEPs	iBCA AA Credit Rating	Annual Mgmt Charge	Initial Charge	Exit Charge	Redemption Yield	Running Yield
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	No	0.70%	NEL	NO	6.95%	7.47%
3 44/2	No	0.70%	NE.	NO	7.43%	7,61%
yac	NO	1.00%	NEL	YES	7.01%	7,30%
	NO	1,00%	3.25%	NO	7.78%*	7.78%*
- Seelings	NO	0.75%	3.25%	NO	7.91%	7.74%

ce. Guinness Flight. Running yields estimated gross as at 2.1.97 and redemption yields are latest available

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deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. You becasts detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Guinnass Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by MARO.

Annuities do repay capital — through higher returns

From Mr R.H. Ranson Sir. Recent correspondence on the annuity iniquity", particularly Mr S.C. Jones's letter, reveals a misunderstanding of how annuities work.

When a life office sells a block of annuities it calculates the amount payable so that, overall, the interest and capital will be paid back over the lifetimes of the annuitants concerned. If each annuitant lived for precisely the number of years expected at outset, then each annuitant would receive back his or her decopurchase. price together with interest.

In practice, of course, some: will die early while others will live longer than expected. The

dying early is used to maintain payments to those fortunate enought to live to an advanced age. That is the insurance principle on which annuities are founded and is how the security of knowing that one will receive an income

throughout life, no matter how Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but The Times regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for

the advice or statements

capital not paid out to those long that might be, is provided.

To assert, as does Mr Jones. that the pension provider pays out only the interest and retains all the capital is simply wrong and that can be easily verified by your readers. On page 42 of your November 30 issue, in which the letters ref-

given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought on investment matters. Letters to the Weekend Money section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

a man aged 65 could secure a pension annuity of about 11 per cent p.a. of the purchase price. Your same issue showed that someone buying long-term gilts would secure a return of about 712 per cent p.a. The extra return of 32 per cent p.a. under the annuity represents the paying back of capital described above.

erred to above appeared, you

published tables showing that

Yours faithfully, R. RANSON (Managing Director and Actuary). The Equitable Life Assurance Society, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Chepstow Road, W2.

A vintage year for PEPs.

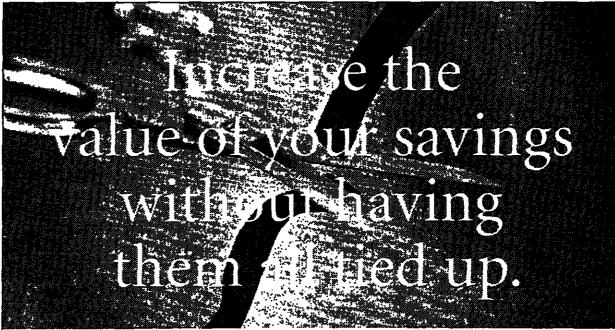
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£500 £5,000 £10.000 £25,000 Gross" Gross Gross' Gross' CAR+ CAR+ CAR** CAR** Bank of Scotland Banking Direct 4.85% 4.75% 5,13% 5.25% 5.60% 5.75% 5,60% 5.75% Instant Access Savings Account **Abbey National Investment** 3,05% 3.30% 3.30% 3.95% 3.95% 4.50% (90 Day Notice) Halifax Solid Gold 4.00% 3.00% 3.25% 3.25% 4.00% 4.50% 3.00% 4.50% (90 Day Notice) Woolwich Premier 90 N/A 3.50% 4.20% 4,20% 4.80% 3.50% 4.80% (90 Day Notice)

You don't have to tie up your savings for 90 days to earn a higher rate of interest. Quite the reverse, as a glance at the table above

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Better rates for Portman savers

Portman Building Soci-ety is boosting its sav-than £10,000, but less than L ings rates from count holders with balances of at least £100 will enjoy an improved return of 4.7 per cent gross. Customers with a Monthly Interest Account with also benefit from higher rates:

Northern Rock Building 2.95 per cent gross on balances between £2,500 and £4,999. 3.95 per cent gross between £5,000 and £9,999, and 5.50 per cent gross on holdings of £20,000 and above. Call 0800 663663 for more information.

■ The Alliance & Leicester Building Society has also announced higher investment rates on its Prime 90 Account. Midas Account and Tessa (Issue 2). For customers with a Prime 90 Account of more than £100,000, the gross annual return has increased from 5.75 per cent to 6 per cent, and the gross monthly return is now 5.85 per cent. The rate for Midas Accounts with more than £10,000 is 3.05 per cent, and 3.75 per cent for accounts of £50.000 or more.

For those with a Tessa (Issue 2) of at least £9,000, the new gross annual return is 6.6 per cent and monthly return is 6.4 per cent, an increase of 0.25 per cent.

£100,000, in an Instant Direct Monday. Instant Access Ac- Postal Investment Account. new higher annual rates are:

> Northern Rock Building Society will introduce two new postal savings accounts on January 17 - Select Instant and Select 60 - paying up to 7.05 per cent gross. Both are share accounts. Existing share account holders who transfer their savings will still be entitled to benefits if the society proceeds with its proposed conversion.

> ■ The launch of the new open-ended investment company (OEIC), has prompted the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds to produce a factsheet that explains the concept of pooled investment. It discusses how OEICs fit into the investment fund landscape by comparing OEICs with unit trusts and investment trusts.

> Copies of the factsheet are available free by calling 0181 207 1361.

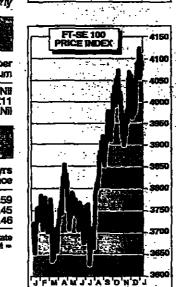
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Melton Mowbray BS 01664 480214	Postal Direct	Postal	£1,000	5.60	Y
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Direct Postal	Postal	£5,000	5.75	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	25,000	6.25	Y
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First National BS 01232 314050	High Yield	30 day	£25,000	6.45	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£10,000 .	6.50	Y
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257777	Postal Bonus	30.4.98p	£10,000	7.00	0
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NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed Rate	5 уеаг	£5,000	7.45	F/YI
Invested Bank (UK) 0171 6260879	Premier Tessa	5 year	£9,000	7.20	- Y
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	infitn Beater	5 year	£1,000	7.00	Y!

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CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
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PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payme with insurance	ent on £3,00	0 for 3yrs insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 RBS Direct 0800 121125 Direct Line 0141 248 9966	12,90%H 14,00% 14,80%E	£112.60 £114.70 £114.21	3	£102.59 £101.45 £102.46

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING urbe: ManayFacts, the Manibly Guide to investment & Manage Rates (01692 500 677)

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6.99% dsc-6 mth

2%-6mth,0.5%-1y

6% discount for 6 months

6.35% dsc-6 mth . 2%-6mth,1%-1yr.

6.25%dsc-6 mth

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£100k+

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0.50 280-120k

0.39 £75-125k

1.24 £20-145k

4.15 £50-100k

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BASE RATES Y MORTGAGES

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PrudentialLevel	29.860	£10,889	£12,29
Standard LfLevel	£9,776	£10,844	£12,24
Equitable L1Lavel	29,905	£10,824	£12,02
Sun Lf of CanLevel	£ 9,731	E10,775	212,19
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PrudentialLeval	£9,204	£ 9,956	£11,05
Sun Lf of CanLevel	£8.990	€ 9,732	£10,82
Gen AccidentLevel	28.907	£ 9,691	210,83
Equitable LfLevel	28,971	2 9,658	£10,61
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
(level annuity) Female:	Age 55	Age 60	Age (
Canada LifeLevel	28,785	£9,398	£10,27
PrudentialLevel	28,768	£9,357	£10,18
Sun Li of CenLevel	28.612	£9,189	£10,00
Emutable LfLevel	28,660	29,186	£ 9,90
Gen AccidentLevel	£8,517	29,129	2 9,99
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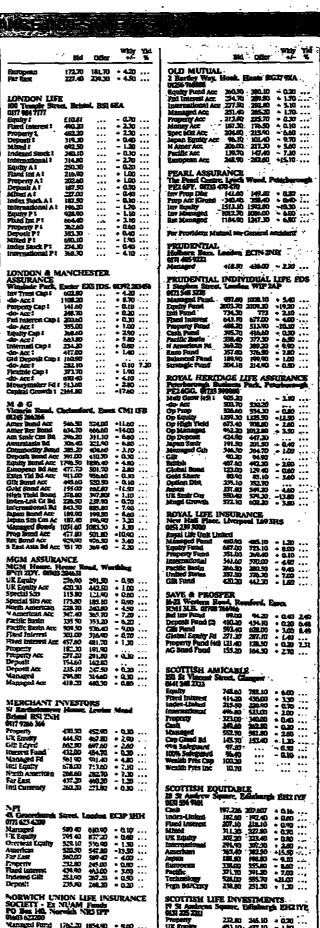
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ANNUAL INCOME
Dates as at January 0, 1007

Investment (£)	Сопрапу	Standard Rate (%)
5.000	AIG Life	5.40
10,000	AlG Life	5.60
20,000	AIG Life	5.75
50,000	AIG Life	5.90
1.000	Hambro Assured	5.15
3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.20
1.000	Hambro Assured	5.50
	ITT London & Edin	6.30
		6.33
50,000	AIG Life	6.38
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.85
	ITT London & Edin	6.35
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50,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
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Early surrender. Terms	vary. Monthly	income may be available.	

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Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	123.83	9.388	100.13	10,000	0181 742 0471
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	138,83	9,364	100.20	10,000	Bristol & West
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Coventry	12.125%	131.35	9.205	100.75	1,000	0800 302010
First National	11.750%	122,52	9.590	100.25	10,000	Banks
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Northern Rock	12.625%	138,94	9.167	100.14	1,000	
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Special Site	663.20 653.80	691.90	•16.50 ·	:
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FOR 1997	PROBLEMS PLC
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N American Act 428,30 450,70 +1230 Prop Ed Act 479,20 594,40 + 0,70	Statey House, 900 Archury Blvd. Milton Lever VIET 2NU, 01908 606101	Imernational 354.0 372.70 • 200 • Impan Smaller 363.51 32.60 • 3.70	Formerly Target Like Assurance Co Ltd. Denosii 264 82 273 01 4 0 30	Internal Cap : 234.20 + 0.60 -do-Acc : 417.00 1.40	N Armerican 7d. 369.20 389.20 4 9.90 Easto Rund 157.60 376.50 • 7.80	International 420.10 4 Elich Doorne 91337 9
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Froi in (1999 Acc 405 70 427,10 + 0,30) Equip Vac 17(8,00 1908,50 + 4,50) Property Vac (4,260 1947,53 + 0,50)	INVESTMENTS Nation Plain, Bristol BS2 0.FL 017 9290566 Asagrance Funds	GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD	Vingd Opp 245.20 (250.00 + 150 Property 266.40 (385.70 Residential Prop 114.50 (20.70	Capatri Growth 1 2164.80 •1740	PE24GG, 0733 390000 Meth Grow (49): 905.20 1.10 -60- Act 501.70 530.20	GRI Prind 535.60 9 Encopers 182.30 1 Adventurers Mg 265.20 2
For Early Acc 30679 355 90 - 0.77 Managered Capital Global 44227 - 0.90	Supplier Vised 344.30 362.50 = 1.00 . Ruby 200.91 2(154 = 0.90 .	Alban Gute, 14th Fir. 125 London Wall, Lond ECC 5AS. 017 70 4567 GT Plan Far Eas. 172 Jul 14257 1090 GT Plan Walde 19720 14437 1740	758 American 317.10 333.90 + 7.20 T58 Brit Gath 1079.00 1134.80 + 2.50	M & G Victoria Road, Chelussiord, Essex CM1 (FB 01245 264266	Os Prote 526.00 554.30 + 0.00	Secure Meet 175.00 t
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY II 1997

Our Economics Editor examines the theoretical battleground

The big ideas

THEORIES

ETIMES SAIL HUNG TANK

The Holy Grail of economic policy is full employment with stable prices. But this central aim has been the only constant in a profession which excites passion and controversy, which has undergone violent U-turns in approach and emphasis, but has not yet

come up with a magic formula.

The weary British voter probably sees little real difference between the economic policies now espoused by Conservatives and new Labour's hopefuls. Perhaps, at the end of a century of economic experimentation; our main political parties have reached consensus on a shaky middle ground which recognises that no one theory of economic management has proved its supremacy. But the nuances of current debate still follow age old battle

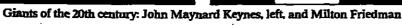
The two men whose presence looms largest are John Maynard Keynes and Milton Friedman. Unfair as it may be to their complex contributions to the art of economics - and nobody should regard it as a science — they have come to represent the opposite poles of interventionism and laisser faire which have always been, and remain, the quarrelsome spirits driving any discussion of how best to run the

■ John Maynard Keynes single-handedly toppled the classical tradition of economics which reigned supreme in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Classical economists believed in the power of market forces, the self-correcting nature of the economy. In a downturn, wages and interest rates would eventually fall to levels low enough for businessmen to invest again. Investment, in turn, would raise employment and incomes and the economy would expand again until rising

prices brought about the next downturn. But Keynes was writing and working in the postwar period, when unemployment never fell below 5 per cent. The economy did not seem to have the power to lift itself naturally out of prolonged depression. Keynes argued that leaving everything to market forces could lead to a downward spiral in demand and that unemployment could settle at-permanently high levels. Instead of relying on businessmen to turn on the economic taps, why not allow the Government to take on this role? The Government, he suggested, could actively stimulate demand by spending money on

public works and lowering interest rates. Keynes's critics charged him with believing in budget deficies of invading believing in budget deficits, of invading policy to the primary aim of controlling individual rights and liberaes with controlling the money supply, without outlawing it nomic interventionism, of making with the controlling the money supply, without outlawing it nomic interventionism, of making with the controlling the controlling that the controlling the controlling that the controlling the controlling that the controlling that the controlling the controlling that t





vice from 1964 to 1969, defends him as the apostle of economic management, not economic planning. Keynes himself said: The important thing for government is not to do things which individuals are doing already, and to do them a little better or a little worse, but to do those things which at present are not done at

■ Milton Friedman and his Chicago school of monetarists mounted the first serious challenge to Keynes, whose ideas held sway until the 1960s. Just as it is unjust to dismiss Keynes as an interventionist, it is inaccurate to describe monetarists as laisser faire.

The Monetarists wrought two great, related changes to economic thinking. They rejected management of demand through fiscal policy - stimulating demand by cutting taxes or increasing public spending to stimulate the economy, raising taxes and cutting spending to squeeze it. Instead, they argued for the supremacy of monetary policy - the control of the quantity of money in the economy. Fighting inflation was put at the forefront of economic policy. Controlling inflation could only be done by controlling the money supply.

Monetarism certainly chimed in with a mood of disenchantment with govern-ment intervention and a rekindled desire for a greater reliance on market forces. But it was not an out-and-out repudiation of government intervention in the economy. It rejected demand management on a grand scale and it subordinated fiscal tion respectable. But Alec Cairners, monetarism reached an unbalanced apphead of the Government Economic Sert theoris and became synonymous with

laisser faire. Control of the money supply became the sole aim of policy. Using fiscal policy as a tool of economic management was ruled out, budgets were to be strictly balanced. The pursuit of full employment was simply dropped as a goal: in the early 1980s, there was no mention of unemployment in four successive Budget speeches.

Armed with a radical programme of deregulation of industry and labour markets, the private sector was expected to unleash its own dynamism. Cairncross describes this as "extreme non-intervention" and comments: "What had happened by 1981 was tantamount to an abandonment of the entire tradition of postwar economic policy." Even Friedman criticised the 1981 Budget, which raised taxes in the teeth of the worst recession since the war, as unnecessarily

■ The new synthesis. Since the radicalism of the early Thatcher years, a pragmatic eclectism has returned to economic policy-making, but it arguably owes more to Friedman than Keynes. Monetary policy remains key, but it is accepted that fiscal policy can be used to blunt the edges. Conservatives and Labour both believe in budget balance but are prepared to sanction surpluses in good times and deficits in bad.

Fighting inflation remains paramount and both main parties are committed to an inflation target. But pursuit of higher employment has made a return to the political agenda. Market forces continue to be the main agent of change, but both parties are prepared to intervene in a limited way to make the market work

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Penny A Day leads Express Gift and Executive Design on Reveley's gallops in preparation for The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle, at Leopardstown today

ll Society can peak in Ladbroke

Starting prices will be returned on

the Leopardstown meeting this after-

noon despite the likelihood of an on-

course bookmakers' strike. An

"industry starting price" is to be generated from an analysis of bets

struck in betting shops in Britain on

the Leopardstown card, from which

four races are being televised live.

but Clifdon Fog had won his maiden

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN British-trained runners tackle The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle, at Leopardstown today but once more the odds look to be stacked in favour of the home team. Barnbrook Again was the last British winner of the race, ten years ago, and while Mary Reveley's three runners. headed by the unbeaten Penny A Day, will have their backers, the best value of the race may be Richard Dunwoody's mount. Hill Society.

Reveley certainly suspects that Penny A Day. Executive Design and Express Gift face a difficult task. The Irish always have a few they've got ready and lurking in the handicap," Reveley said. "Ours are ready

with the weather. We are just hoping for the best."

Hill Society is hardly lurking in the handicap but, in a race that places a premium on early pace, he should be able to hold a good position throughout. A Curragh handicap winner over ten furlongs in August, Noel Meade's charge is a proven hurdler for whom the ground has come right.

Although well beaten by Theatreworld 12 days ago, he should improve for that run and represents better value than Khayrawani, who has failed on the big day in the past. and Family Way, who although a ten-year-old has won only one race. Tony McCoy's mount, the well-backed Clifdon Fog, ran an eye-

distance at Christmas when staying

on to be third to Legal And Tender.

only two weeks previously. Centaur Express, Kaitak, Palacegate King and Master Tribe are the other British representatives and the lastnamed may hold the best chance of catching trial over course and

Charlie Swan may find himself out of luck with King Of Kerry in the big race, but can gain compensation on

The dispute concerns starting-price shops at the track, which intend to take bets on the "home" racing, rather than just the "away" meetings. On-course bookmakers fear a loss of turnover. Tom Kelly, chairman of the Betting Office Licensees Association, said: This is a one-off. These are exceptional circumstances."

Idiots Venture in the Pierse Leopardstown Handicap (2.05). Swan has chosen him ahead of stable companion Royal Mountbrowne despite having been unseated from him last time out in the Ericsson Chase.

That had been only idiots Venture's second race after a long absence through injury, but he was substantially backed to win and is usually a sound jumper. On Ericsson Chase running King Of The Gales is the form horse and looks the probable danger, although Whale Of A Knight's chance last time was ruined by a bad mistake at a vital stage.

Colin Weedon, the Sussex trainer, sends Miracle Man for the Fitzpatrick Hotel Group Novices' Chase (1.05), which will be the gelding's first race for 14 months. However, given his lengthy absence, it will be surprising if he can win and a more likely answer is Ultra Flutter, disappointing at Limerick last time but a good horse when allowed to race up

with the pace.

Rosin The Bow is the most consistent of the runners in the Morris Handicap Hurdle (1.35) and could still be ahead of the handicapper. He can defy top weight.

2.50 ANONYM (nap) 3.20 Prophet's Honour 1.50 in The Money 3.50 Silent Valley 2.20 Eithe Hope . 2.50 Super High: 3.20 Move The Clouds.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

FORM FOCUS

1,50 RUSSELL BALDWIN & BRIGHT BREEZE-UP SALE CLAIMING STAKES (#2,765: 1m 6f 166yd) (12 runners) SALE CLAIMING STAKES (£2.765: 1m 61 166yd) (12 runners)
281 (2) 511250° RUFAL CITIZEN STJ. (CD.S) (1 Beltunier) 1 Padroniers 8-94 ...
282 (3) 06542-0 THE NOMEY? (C.F.G.) (1 Singli R Hoffmished 8-9-6 ...
283 (5) 2160° SFYA 241 (5) (1) Beltunier) 0 MeCale 5-9-4 ...
284 (10) 120342- ELRSKY 181 (6.5) (Cregide Contraction) R Nome 10-9-4 ...
285 (8) 500022-2 SEDIER COVE? (6) 1205/2000 Redon) M Media 7-9-2 ...
286 (9) 56164/ ASTREL SMASSON 481 (8.6) (E Westzay) 6 McCaud 6-9-0 R ...
287 (12) U0050-0 CHRLY LAD 8 (6) (Good Fire Rating) R Johns 6-8-12 ...
288 (11) 60-DERRYSELLE 480 (Mass 8 Patron) R Johns 6-8-12 ...
299 (1) 9-0 STORECUTTER 7 (9) (Mass 5 Behraiting) M Charlos 4-8-10 ...
210 (4) 0000- SUDERN WHO 7014 (9) (Mass 6 Burle) R West 4-8-10 ...
211 (6) 0- GAPLANDIMYES 221 (6 Taylor) Mass K George 5-8-9 ...
212 (7) 65544-3 THERESCOSS 8 (6 Mess) B Stant 4-8-5 ...
213 (10) 0- GAPLANDIMYES 221 (6 Taylor) Mass K George 5-8-9 ...

FORM FOCUS POYAL CITUZEN best effort 2% 2nd of 15 to E 10 to 58p .iig in applieds in claimer at Southwest (AM), (an 6i) in March (AM) 4m 40 with STL (AM) 4m

Move The Clouds to put her opponents in shade

WOLVERHAMPTON **CHANNEL 4**

1.50: Eulogy, twice a winner at around this trip on Southwell's similar surface, is the form choice. An outside here, but the track has changed and the inside rail now offers the faster ground. so Karl Burke's runner may not be suited by being drawn so wide. Royal Citizen has been pulled up in both starts over hurdles this year but he did win two claimers over course and distance two years ago and he is a tentative choice.

2.20: After two course and distance successes inside a fortnight. Elite Hope looks sure to start favourite, but the outside draw is a big worry. I prefer Miss Offset, especially as she has the pace to take advantage of a plum draw next to the rail. She undoubtedly prefers fibresand, so a slightly disappointing effort at Lingfield last time can be ignored. She is well treated judged on a four-length win at Southwell in November.

5/1 Khayrawani

7/1 Clifdon Fog

8/1 Family Way

9/1 Penny A Day

12/1 Black Queen

12/1 King Of Kerry

14/1 Executive Design 16/1 Hill Society

14/1 Express Gift

20/1 Lady Arpel

FREE Golf

Umbrella.

THE LADBROKE HURDLE

2 miles H'cap, Leopardstown 2.35pm, Lize on CH4/BBC TV

12/1 Guest Performance 33/1 Metastasio

16/1 Notcomplainingbut 50/1 Rescue Time

each way, One Quarter the edds a place 1 2, 3 4 Prices subject to fluctuation manable up to Piets Show Tatterialis Rule Etcl may alphy Non number - he bet

LATEST COOS ON WEEKIN HEN TY TEXT . Telepas on CHATGON ACCESS

TO OPEN I CREET ACCOUNT PREPARE COM 253 332 MILLIAM WILL MARS APPLA PROCESSABLES TO REACTIVES THE

<u>Win or lose.</u> FREE UMBRELLA FOR FIRST TIME

TELEPHONE CALLERS staking \$25 or

more using Switch or Delta bank or

RING TODAY-BET TODAY

5**0800 44 40 40**

Mamma intel mostment per call 5:10 Over |4 souty |
Free umbrella will be sent within 7 to 10 days of your fast bet being placed.

22/1 Centaur Express

25/1 Master Tribe

28/1 Glint Of Eagles

33/1 Fontaine Lodge

33/1 Magical Lady

40/1 Kaitak

40/1 Reasilvia

40/1 Shanes Hero

50/1 Palacegate King

building society debit cards.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.50: This is a high-class

contest by all-weather standards, but neither of the topweights has previous ex-perience of sand. Although Super High excels around here, he likes to race prominently and is badly drawn for that purpose. He should confirm his recent superiority over Duke Valentino, himself disappointing of late. Three Weeks has better prospects over what appears his optimum trip. Only marginally ahead of Suga Hawk and Beauman here last week, he meets both those rivals on better terms. He can triumph for the third time in four starts. Anonym is unreliable. and Live Project, badly ham-RICHARD EVANS pered last time, could prove the biggest threat.

3.20: Move The Clouds deserves the benefit of the doubt after a decent effort in better company here in November. The filly, who has a suspect temperament. Touch'n'go well in arrears then and her stable is already among the winners this year. Holders Hill, lightly raced of late, may again have to settle for a place. A more interesting proposition is Prophets

Honour, who disappointed when strongly fancied last

time. He should appreciate

this shorter trip.

3.50: Chateauherault will be popular after winning at Lingfield on Wednesday. when the first two home finished well clear. However, it remains to be seen how he will cope with this different surface and he looks vulnerable under a penalty. Millroy. by contrast, ran with credit here last month - and again over seven furlongs at Lingfield more recently. when he appeared nailed by the handicapper. But he should improve over this

some ordinary opponents.

OUTLOOK

MONDAY'S MEETINGS FONTWELL: bosen SOUTHWELL: shweather theying

TUESDAY CARUSLE: hopen in dama

LEICESTER: snow and hos! LINGRIELD PARK: a "water or meeting

DESPITE a forecast rise in

temperatures. the jumps cards

on Monday and Tuesday are in dount. The point-to-points

at Larkhill. Tweseldown and

Cottenham this weekend have

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell All. First 1999 125₁ Forthes, Park 12 401

WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton "A.M.

(136)
THURSDAY Lingfeld Park (AW, 136)
Liddow (130, Tauthor (120)
FRIDAY, Southwell (AW, 136), Kelso
(130) Jermosci Park (130)
SATURDAY, Englied Park AW (136),
Control (130), Facilities Park (580)
(1246), Kempton Park (140)

Fairmeenigs - colo

RACELINE

NEWCASTLE 101 201

W'HAMPTON 103 203

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Lingfield

102 202

120 220

TUESDAY: Lingfeld Park (AR) ** Carrole (1 CC) Le cester (1 CC)

Huntingdon (1.25)

also off been called off.

JULIAN MUSCAT

LEOPARDSTOWN

12.35 Rawy. 1.05 Ultra Flutter. 1.35 Rosin The Bow. 2.05 Idiots Venture. 2.35 Family Way. 3.10 Kilcoo Boy. 3.40 Rainthow Victor.

GOING: YIELDING

TV: BBC1 1.05, 1.35, 2.05, 2.35; C4 2.05, 2.35 12.35 FITZPATRICK CASTLE HURDLE

(£4,110; 2m) (6 runners)

1.05 FITZPATRICK HOTEL GROUP NOVICE CHASE (£5,480: 2m 5f) (8)

7-4 Ultra Fisher, 5-2 The Carring Rus, 4-1 Man Ol Amas, 9-2 Fischpales, 7-1 Mance Man 17-1 Native Status, 16-1 Garabagh, 33-1 Radiast River

1.35 s m morris handicap hurdle (£4,110: 3m) (7)

5-4 Resto The Box. 9-4 Test The Noper. 4-1 Rock n Roll Kid, 6-1 Medianer, 12-1 Fung Water: 14-1 Appetite Court.

2.05 PIERSE LEOPARDSTOWN HANDICAP CHASE (£16,250-3m) (6) longer trip and can master

215- ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 28 (6.3) A P O Bries 9-12-0 T Horgan
215- ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 28 (6.3) A P O Bries 10-11-11 . C P Swan
215- ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 28 (6.5) A P O Bries 10-11-1 . C P Swan
350- ROYAL PROJECT S (6.5) A P O Bries 10-11-1 . C P Swan
350- ROYAL ROYAL S (6.5) A P O Bries 11-10-1 . C P Swan
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2.35 THE LADBROKE (Handicap hurdle, £39,200; 2m) (23)

3.10 ASSIFORD IN HIFLAT RACE

\$-2 Micro Boy 3-1 Clay And Mades, 9-2 Construct Laboration 5-1 Con Bud, Valley Sine, 5-1 Conyone 14-1 pilips.

5-1 Etamanen 6-1 Culdon Fog. 7-1 Fanniy Way 9-1 Prem A Guy, 10-1 King Gr 1977 12-1 Blaza Gueen, Gueza Performanco HBI Spoety, 14-1 sitiera

3.40 TANEY IN H FLAT RACE (£3,082, 2m) (9)

ALCHARDAN T J Late: 11-7 Mr A J Martin COUNTY CAPTAIN G M 1 gross 11-7 Mr A J Martin COUNTY CAPTAIN G M 1 gross 11-7 Mr S J Makon (7) LUCH BAN H de Brunkerd 11-7 Mr N J Makon (7) LUCH BAN H de Brunkerd 11-7 Mr N T Harby (7) Mr NON GOLD & P Makar 11-7 Mr N T Harby (7) Mr N GOLD & P Makar 11-7 Mr B M Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B M Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B M Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) CALIN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) CANN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) CANN ROSE 5 J Resty (11-1) Mr B J Cash (3) Captain Mr J Captain Mr J Late (11-1) Captain Mr J Capta 5-4 Random Victor 9-4 Myten Geld, 7-1 Lock Ban, 2-1 Servey Nathe, 10-1 Abdamanca, Caron Force, 14-1 County Gaption, 16-1 others

12.50 Warning Reef. 1.25 Stip Jig. 1.55 Hever Golf Lover. 2.30 Te Amo. 3.00 Windborn. 3.30 Stalled. DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST **12.50** tyrone maiden stakes (£3,583: 1m 5f) (13 runners)

4 30-D DOLINE INDEMNITY 7 6 Browny 4-8-0 50- NAVIL MS-6811/2 44 P Hedger 4-9-0 6 329- RANDOM KINDNESS 185 R Ingram 4-9-0 9 RANDOM KINDNESS 185 R Ingram 4-9-0 9 34-8 SUPPERY FIN 401 89 W 6 M TURNE 7-8-0 10 022- WARRING REZ 281 C Projects 4-9-0 10 00-DUTCH DYANE 46 6 Enright 4-8-9 12 00-5 MAMASI 8W Main 4-8-9 13 440- TURNE 150 H Grahms 4-8-9

1.25 ARMAGH HANDICAP (£2,869: 1m 4f) (8)

9-4 General Haven, 3-1 Sig. Joy. 4-1 Sealife Alley, 9-2 Father Oue, 6-1 Alexant 10-1 State Appropria, 12-1 others

1.55 ANTRIM LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,395: 51) (4)

1-11 Hour Gold Lover, 3-1 Sentice's Nephree, 5-1 Come Too Manner's, 6-1

2.30 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,908: 1m 2f) (14)

| EZ.908. 1m ZI) (14)
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| 241- ARCATURA 72 (20.5) C Jumes 5-9-72 | C Fouler T3:
| 3 33-3 | BOY SSENET 3 (C.6) T Ranginon 5-6-12 | JO Smith (S) 7:
| 4 00-0 MEDIARTY SURSEY 7 M Madagate 5-6-12 | JO Smith (S) 7:
| 5 100- TE AND 30.1 (F.6) M P00 5-9-12 | JO Smith (S) 7:
| 6 004- SENTAMES MAY ZU (20.5) A Moore 6-9 Candy Morie 4-7:
| 7 103- HOMESTLY 14 (G) B Smart 4-8-8 | S Smithers 5-7:
| 8 006- LUTTLE FR (Sight 16 T Jonnet 4-6-7 | A Duty (S) 12-9:
| 9 000- MEDIA DURIESS D0 (6.5.5) Mrs. L Stades 5-9-6 | T Serale 2:
| 10 000- BATH MOREST 20: D French Durie 4-8-4 | G Santer 8-11:
| 400- ZACAMOON 5-41 (J.6) J PRoc-Neyes 5-8-4 | D Biggs 10:
| 12 6-6-0 OUR EDUE 9 (V.Co.) J B Gooby 6-9-3 | J Stack 9:
| 13 000- FRENY FOUNTSTEPS 80 C Papierm 5-7-12 | D Widght 3:
| 14 550- ARESM 31 (B) J PRICH Myris 4-7-10 | M Adams 14 50-4 ARESM 31 (B) J PRICH Myris 4-7-10 | M Adams 15-6 ARESM 31 (B) J PRICH Myris 4-7-10 | R-1 I Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 2-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 2-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 2-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 2-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-8 Pan Serrel Monesch 6-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-1 (Reterious Wes 8-4 II Destiname 16-7-4 | Accuracy 3-1 7-2 Acciona, 9-2 Bun Secret, Humestly, 6-1 Kenterior Way, 8-1 Il Traditioner, Te Amo, 10-1 others.

3.00 LONDONDERRY FILLIES HANDICAP 1 (2-3 LEY LACKES 9 R Guest 9-7 D Riggs 4 2 43-3 WHEEDERHY 4 C AREN 3-7 G Familians (5): 2 3 05-5 REM LLEY PRIM 12 (B.D.5) MES 6 Kethensy 9-5 S Sanders 1 4 456- WEDDING MASSE 62 P Hastern 9-1 G Carter 3 5 00-4 MYSTERY 16 S Dow 8-11 A Daily (9): 5 Western 11-4 LBy Lagran 3-1 Mystery, 4-1 from Lacy From 6-1 Western Masse (3-Y-0: £2,428: 7f) (5)

3.30 FERMANAGH AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,804: 2m) (11) 1 652- CUEST ALLINICE 16 (CD,G) A Moon 5-11-7
2 234- MATTAAFEN 169 (C,G) MES 8 Sanders 6-11-2
3 552- STALLED 22 (CD,F,G,S) P Walning 7-11-2 Mes L Shoun (Z) 1
4 615- ZHRO R-VER 12 (C,G) A Moon 5-10-12 — More A Perrist 10-5 550- SLA MAN HOWA 424 (C,F,G) A Balley 8-10-12 — Mes A Perrist 10-6 230: SMCRO 221 S Gave 6-10-10 — S Faithmentontack (S) 7 7 (C,F,G) A Balley 8-10-12 — Mes A L Holeshoon (Z) 6 230: SMCRO 221 S Gave 6-10-10 — S Faithmentontack (S) 7 7 (C,F,G) A Balley 8-10-10 — J Galleshie (Z) 11 8 (30) - CDDC 9-10 (F) 8 (30) - Mark 4-10-5 Mes S (Nouthy-Microst (Z) 7 250- Mark 10-10 — R Tromber 9 10 000- LITTLE LURC 981 (G) P Balley 6-10-0 — H Moones (Z) 4 1 (A-PESSIAN BUD 4 (E,G) 3 Basiey 9-9-7 — Mark 9 Bookey (Z) 5 5-2 Matzackh, 7-7 Gast Markey 6-1 Jan 6-New 7-4 Salled 8-4 Sensor -10-1 1 652- GUEST ALLENNOE 16 (CD,G) A Moore 5-11-7

5-7 Hatzalin, 7-7 Greet Microse, 6-1 June Piper, 7-1 Stalled, 8-4 Issueno: 40-1 CCS-Theracal, 12-1 others COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: S Wilsons, 6 various from 28 conners, 21 cfs, P Hazaro, 16 town 80, 30 0%, N Graham, 7 from 36, 19 cfs, D Mauray-Scrift, 12-bron 52, 19 0%, J Berry, 18 from 97, 18 6%, G Banery, 5 bron 28, 17 9% JOCKEYS: Mrs. S Booley 3 missours from 12 nates, 25.0%; J Wester, 56 from 511, 21.9%, W Ryan, 14 from 67, 16.1%, R Lappin, 6 from 32, 15.8%, D Warrison, 27 from 187, 14.4%; A Clark, 36 from 310, 11.6%.

Blinkered first time LEOPARIDSTOWN: 12.35 Rawy 2.35 Cläden Fog. LINGFRED PARK 2.30 Medis Express. 3.00 Run Lucy Run. 3.30 Code Red. WOLVERHAMPTORE: 150 Storm Wind. 3.20 Hazel. 3.50 Danefall Puncuss, Malroy, State Of Gold.

2.20 TOTE ALL WEATHER LIMITED STAKES (9) 2010-1 BLTE HOPE 7 (20.5) (Size Racing) N Tribler 5-9-4 FU. (9) 50010-0 SET THE YES-900 7 (Y.D.F.G.S.) (8) Manthema D Williams 8-9-4 D Gdb (5) 24100-5 FULLS TO HT 14 (Y.D. para M Hatchard N Librardon 4-9-1 D Size 22 222-24 DESERT WANDER'S (G.D.F.G.S.) OF Chapters 6-9-12 Advanced D Chapters 6-9-12 Advanced Section 10 Chapters 6-9-12 Advanced FORM FOCUS ELITE HOPE best Zahalan ST in T-stumer transform (# 1st 25) on persolit over course and distance (AIV), DESERT MVRDER | stind best 'the its SAI did of 13 to Pleasure Total in hyrollogo at | kendicap at Saith SAI AIV 77 Pleasure Total in hyrollogo at | bundicap here (494, 60). Manabari desi stori 455; " (77, geod), 12.003 96. 3ni ol 14 io Kadwick in bandicap at Linglied (487, ... Selection: Elite Mope 2.50 PERTEMPS HANDICAP (£5,181: 1m 100yd) (13 rumers) C4

| \$25,181; 1(n 100yd) {13 numers} | \$10,83 (Rev Window Factory) J Harris 6-10-0 S Drowne 91 | \$10 | \$48,004 | PARTS MOSTER 138 (0,8,5) (Rev Window Factory) J Harris 6-10-0 S Drowne 91 | \$12 | \$77,421440 | \$4807 105-17 | \$18 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$1800 | \$180 Long Installage: Amber Velley 7-4; Stige Hawlt 7-7; General 7-5 BETTING: 4-1 Pater Moster, 5-1 Sugar High, 7-1 Niesbant, 8-1 Sabol, Fundah, 10-1 Star Talent, 12-1 These Wood

FORM FOCUS

Table

\$5.55

M Salar

PATER MOSTER shout 3t 4th of 5, to Keywe in candidous size at Modifiquess (17, good to sout), for the Modifiquess (17n, good to sout), for the Modifiquess (17n, good to sout), for the Modifiquess (17n, good to sout), for the Modifique term (1 3.20 WEATHERBYS GROUP MAIDEN STAKES (£3,469: 1m 1f 79yd) (11 numers) -

FORM FOCUS

HOLDERS HELL SI 2mi of 13 to Generatedech in straitmen over course and distance (AW) with TALLULAH BELLE 3541 2ml of 19 to Kristal Street DALLULAH BELLE 7541 2ml, PROPHETS HONGLER best client about BY 3ml of 4 to Toy Lody in landicap at Stricture (in 6), firm) on permissions start. FLAGS and the start about BY 3ml of 4 to Toy Lody in landicap at Stricture (in 6), firm) on permissions start. FLAGS 3ml of 3ml of 11 to Selection: HOLDERS 5ml 22. 7ml.

Selection: HELDERS 1812.

3.50 CORAL HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,355; 1m 1f 79yd) (7 runners) (7) 002132 MILEROY 12 (V.S) (Exact of R Belderson) P Kellenny 9-7 B. Wightom (2) 0056 MILEROY 13 (V.S) (Exact of R Belderson) P Kellenny 9-7 B. Wightom (2) 0056 MILEROW 11 107 L. Probebly O Sham 9-3 J. Franchis (5) 0004-1 C.A.T.EALMERAKET 4 (E) (M. Coul) P Restam 8-2 (Seet) S. Drimme (3) 1025-34 SQELTON SOVERESON 7 8E-7) (S. Belley) R Heliceband 7-12. J. Canno (9) 0006-64 STATE OF GOLD 6 (B) (X. West Pastern) J Heliceband 7-12. J. Canno (9) 0006-64 STATE OF GOLD 6 (B) (X. West Pastern) J Heliceband 7-12. J. Canno (9) 0006-64 STATE OF GOLD 6 (B) (X. West Pastern) J Heliceband 7-12. J. Canno (9) 0006-64 STATE OF GOLD 6 (B) (X. West Pastern) J Heliceband 7-13. J. Branchill (7) 0000425 MILEROW 12 (B) (R. Westerby Racing Boreau) D Nicholis 7-10 J Branchill (7) 607 (1) technic control of the Cong transfers Sheet Veltey 7-3.

(cong transfersy Sheet Veltey 7-3.

607 (1982) 5-4 Chaintenfersult, 2-1 Militory, 4-1 Station Streetsyn, 8-1 Described Principle, 14-1 State of Gold, 18-1 Middledicts, 25-1 State Valley.

FORM FOCUS MRLEGY 1547 2nd of 5 to Silvenscence in hand-cap at Logisida (AM, 77). CHATEMER RANKET had Double Express Mil In: 7-maker handlesp at Logisid (AM, 101 20, SKELTON SOMESHSH) sales at Southwell (AM, 104, SEENT VALLEY best 40 of 6 to Globulcalar in constitutes sick here (AM, 104, SEENT PARTIES). Im 100ph; DANESH L. PRINCESS 754 3rd of 6 to Selection: CHATEALHERAURT

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS JOCKEYS" 44 182 24.0 Anthony Bond 3 13 23.1 J France 6 30 20.0 0 Service 4 20 20.0 L Charact L Charact 28 146 19.2 F Lyach 5 29 17.2 D McKenen

Sponsor adds incentive

RUSSELL BALDWIN & BRIGHT, the auctioneers, sponsors the second race at Wolverhampton today as part of a campaign to promote the course's first breeze up sale on March 10. Any horse bought at the sale of two-year-olds will be eligible for a £30,000 six-furlong race on the track on August 16. In addition they will collect a £1,000 bonus if winning any of the 20 races for translate to be some at Wolvenhampton. juveniles to be run at Wolverhampton this year

ليكذا من الرص

RACING: FORMER CHAMPION SIGNS OFF AS JUMPING RETURNS

Worsening leg problems end Alderbrook's career

RACING CORRESPONDENT

ALDERBROOK, one of the outstanding dual-purpose horses of recent years, was retired yesterday after increas-ing problems with his suspect legs made any more racing too great a risk.

The eight-year-old deserves to be bracketed with the likes of Sea Pigeon and Royal Gait after his feat of winning the 1995 Champion Hurdle less than six months after landing the Prix Dollar, a group two race at Longchamp His brilliant victory at the

Cheltenham Festival was achieved on only his third start over hurdles and the eight-year-old, runner-up to Collier Bay last year before winning the Scottish Champion Hurdle, had been ante-post favourite to win the hurdlers' crown again this March. However, the soft groundloving son of Ardross, trained

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SON OF ANSHAN (12.35 Newcastle) Next best: Sparky Gayle (2.10 Newcastle)

on the Flat by Julie Cecil and over jumps by Kim Bailey. has a history of leg problems. including an operation to remove chips from a knee, and they have worsened recently.

'It was not a hard decision because I don't like seeing horses in pain and by continuing in training he would have been in pain." Bailey said yesterday. "He has a stud career ahead of him and will make a wonderful stallion. He had to have soft ground and we have had fast ground for so long it has made it nigh on impossible to train him. His joints have got puffier and the tendons at the back of his joints have been playing him up. The decision to retire him was taken jointly with his owner, Ernie Pick.

The news of Alderbrook's retirement, which comes only days after the death of Mysilv. will accentuate the desire to find other potential champions as the weather begins to ease. The search will begin immediately with Newcastle



Highland Park, left, wins at Musselburgh on the resumption of jumps racing vesterday

yesterday confident of staging an excellent meeting with several Cheltenham and Aintree candidates on view.

Ann Swinbank is enjoying a terrific season and she has a fine chance to improve on a winning strike rate of 29 per cent. Son Of Anshan, who has progressed with each run and won over course and distance last time, can follow up in the Teal Novices' Hurdle (12.35) and enhance his sale price.

"He's up for sale and we are looking for the right owner." Mrs Swinbank said yesterday. We think he is quite good. We have not been held up by the weather as much as some and Son Of Anshan went to Southwell for a gallop last week. We have an all-weather gallop at home and he's been kept ticking over."

The Adversport Dipper Novices Chase (2.10) has brought together an attractive field of first-season chasers. but I have no hesitation in selecting Sparky Gayle. A

useful hurdler last term, he looks set to become an even better chaser judged on two sparkling victories this season, including over course and distance last time.

The form of his latest success looks solid with the third and sixth having won since, while Solomon's Dancer, the runner-up, was only just beaten in the Feltham Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Musselburgh

Going: good to firm, firm in place:

ruined Sparky Gayle's training routine. "We have been fortunate because we have several fields in a hollow which the frost has not been able to get into. Although he has not done a lot of fast work he has never missed a canter. David Parker, son of Colin, the trainer, said yesterday.

NEWCASTLE

12.35 Son Of Anshan. 1.05 Lord Gyllene. 1.35 Sea Victor, 2.10 Sparky Gayle, 2.45 The Toiseach. 3.15 Weaver George. 3.45 Colour Code. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.35 SEA VICTOR.

Our Newmarket Correspondent 1.35 BLOMBERG (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

12.35 TEAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (52,327: 2m) (12 runners)

3-1 Mellereson, 7-2 Son Ol Acciner, 4-1 No Mere Hassle, 6-1 Aucksin Park, 10-7 Double Agest, 12-1 Cumbrian Massim, 14-1 Needle Malch, 18-1 others.

1.05 PINTAIL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,592: 3m 6l) (14) 5 6-74 URAMUS CULLINGES 21 (B,CD,C,S) J Rizgenió 11-10-10
P. Carbony
6 54U5 PMS GURGER 23 (F,C,S) M Harmond 9-10-4 J Osboco 6
7 211- RUSSAN CASTLE 253 (F,S) J Menh 40-4 J Choco 6
8 -125 AV DALEY 40 (G,R,S) J Johasson 9-10-2 M C Bioneon (3)
9 P-12 WOODLARGS BDY 36 (F,R,S) 4 Invest 9-10-1 D Monts
10 PP-U TWM STATES 36 (G,R,S) 4 Invest 9-10-1 D Monts
11 -451 PRAMME PRIDE 24 (M,S) M Harmond 10-10-2 A Magazin (9)
12 LOCAL CRET THE GRU 22 (G) Mes S Buschone 12-10-0 Mr M Handborne (7)
13 13/94 JENGER 22 (F,S) B From 9-10-0 J M Managani (5)
14 SSSF COUL WEATHER 36 (B) P Consciously 9-10-0 B Shorey

1.35 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL SERIES NOVICES HURDLE (56,252: 2m) (20) 6 0-10 JUDICIOUS NORMAN 43 J Adyn 6-11-5 ... T Road 7
9 30PP LEPTON 85 (6) J Curis 6-11-5 ... J F Tibay 7
10 0/2 MALTA MAN 40 P Cheesbrough 7-11-5 ... A 8 Smith 7
11 1541 MISTER HM 21 (0,F,G,S) N Twishon-Davies 5-11-5 C Linvellyn 8
12 0-0 ORLY A STOUX 45 J Former 5-11-5 ... W Fry 7
13 00 POLITICAL MELISTAR 38 R Moop 5-11-5 ... N 8 Smith 7
14 POV PRINCE BALTARAR 655 N Syroli 8-11-5 ... O Pours 15 OLIVINGS 105F J FROYENSI 45-11-5 ... D Calleghor 8
15 0 REACH THE CLOUGS 45 J JUDISO 5-11-5 ... D Galleghor 8
17 1 SEA WICTOR 5F (0,F) 41 Hamts 5-11-5 ... D Balleghor 8
18 1EM PAST SK 28 M Wave 5-11-5 ... D Balleghor 8
19 00- TSANGA 273 6 Moore 5-11-6 ... D Calleghon 6
20 065- MARTHA BUCKLE 282 J Goldie 8-11-0 ... G Los

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRABERS: Mrs M Reveley, 30 tempers from 126 noners, 23.0%; P Cheschrough, 11 from 62, 17.7%; M W Easterby, 7 from 40, 17.5%, J Fitzgeald, 7 from 43, 16.3%; C Parker, 5 from 32, 15.6%. JOCKEYS: P Carberry, 3 winners from 13 note; 23.1%, A Gardity, 9 from 49, 18.4%, A Dioblom, 14 from 94, 14.9%; T Read, 9 from 61, 14.8%, A Maguitre, 3 from 22, 13.6%; D Bandley, 4 from 31, 12.9%. 2.10 ADVERSPORT DIPPER NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £11,848; 2m 4f) (16)

(GTODE II: 2.11,040c. CTB 49) (10)

1 1P11 STARTLY DASHRES 21 (D.F.G.S) T Casterty 6-11-12 R Carolly (2)

1 1P13 DOWN THE RELL SS (D.F.G.S) I Johnson 6-11-9 P Carberry 85

3 4-11 SPARRY GAYLE 42 (D.D.F.G.S) C Pader 7-11-9 ... 8 Storay 90

1 122F BARLY SHE 60 W Womp 6-11-5 ... A Magazin 60

5 16 BRIGHTER SHADE 61 (F) Mrs M Remain 7-11-5 .. A DOWN 60

5 10 BRIGHTER SHADE 61 (F) Mrs M Remain 7-11-5 .. A Thomas 50

7 1236 UE DENSTAN 42 (F) Mrs D Thomason 10-11-5 ... T Read 70

8 21/3 MAJOR LOOK 22 (F) S Brockster 9-11-5 ... R Johnson 70

9 DITP MONEWAR FRIETE 45 (D.R.S) J.Adem 7-11-5 ... M Michany 57

10 249- MOST ROCH 2457 B Ellion 9-11-5 ... D. J Kreming 6. 5-4 Simoly Dealning, 7-4 Spurity Gayle; 8-7 Deam The Fell, 12-1 Ballyllox, Brighter Stade, 18-1 Major Look, 20-1 others

2.45 SITTERN HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,039: 3m) (17)

3 14/3 HOUSE CAPTAIN 21 (C.S.S.) Rizpendi B-11-10 P Carbony 4 415- CUTTI-ROAT AID 14SP (B.F.G) las M Revoley 7-11-9
M Hamington (7) 93
5 0-21 ROBERTY LEA 23 (B.S.) Mrs M Revoley 9-10-8
8 313/2 DALLY BOY 21 (C.F.G.) T Ensemb 6-11-5
R Garriery 7 05-1 LMO 26 (C.F.G.) P Months 6-11-5
R Garriery 8
1-10 HALE DERFING 35 (D.BF.G.S.) N Testion-Owner 7-11-2
C Licentian on

9 01-3 THE TOISEACH S2 (5) J Faustines 6-11-2 C Levelyin, 96 10 1211 ELA MATA 35 (F.S.5) Min A Swintest 5-11-0 J Parties 91 1-613 NOX THE BEAK 35 (5) J Hypern 6-10-12 J Options 96 12 12-5 02A 42 (F.S.) W Since 6-10-12 R McGraft (5) 92 13 -406 446 STEP; HTDE 31 (F) W Since 8-10-10 M Michael (9) 44 300- MCORESINE DAVICES 318 (F.S.5) D Beats 7-10-8 FI Juliescon 90 15 2331 PHARVINE 23 (D.F.5) If Woodhouse 7-10-1 A S Smith 96 13335 MCCHOLAS PLANT 40 (F.S.) J Golde 8-10-0 L O'Heas 93 17 150- TURKISH YOWER 248 (G) R Negan 6-10-0 B Sorvey 84

3.15 NORTH EAST RACING GROUP ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP CRASE (\$2,837; 2m 110yd) (11)

1 2-23 ALMODER 42 (8.8F.F.G.) M W Excision 8-12-0 M A Fizzperald 91 2 -644 ONE FOR THE POT 32 (CD.8F.F.G.S) Min A Raughton 12-11-10 3 -241 WEAVER GEORGE 32 (D.F.G.) Nin A Raughton 12-11-10 M Foster 44 2413 RLL O'FRANCE 32 (D.F.G.) W Shorey 7-11-6. M Inducary 34 4 2413 RLL O'FRANCE 32 (D.F.F.G.) P Carber 10-11-5. T Reed 93 5 -849 POTATIO MAN 24 (S. B. BEISON 11-11-3. A Double 31 5 -943 //MANA JOHROY 32 (S.) J. D'India 3-11-3. A Double 31 7 FFO ASLAN 25 (S.S.) I Rignested 9-10-13. P Carbony - 8 49-3 CHEL NWIO 35 (F.G.) H Sycol 8-10-5. R Johnson 90 9-65 SUPPE SAMDY 45 (D.S.) F MeDicardo 10-10-1. K Johnson - 10 (CT) CROSSHOT 35 (D.F.G.S.) R McDoudel 10-10-0. K Johnson 92 11 R1-2 KELBALLY BOY 50 (G.J.) Juhreon 7-10-9. Mr C Boncer (3) -

3-1 Wester George, 4-1 Alfader, 5-1 Crosshot, 7-1 One For The Pot, 8-1 Asian, 10-1 Chill Wind, Poll O'Praise, 12-1 others.

3.45 shoveler standard open national hunt RACE (21,497: 2m) (25)

1 COLOUR CODE 8; 83 Ms A Smitchark 5-11-11 ... J Supple
1 MR LURPAK 39 (20,5) Ms M Revelop 5-11-11 ... A R-hodge
BALCOMY SUY R Woodhouse 5-11-4 ... A S Smitch
2 BLAY BLICKSOR 21 J Abeton 5-11-4 ... D J Knewnook (5)

5 BRANDSBY MIRSTER 23 P Bestumont 6-11-4 ... B Grattan (7)
COTTSTOWN BOY Ms S Bracksore 6-11-4 ... B Grattan (7)
COTTSTOWN BOY Ms S Bracksore 6-11-4 ... M Tyckin
HE PERBY J Johnson 5-11-4 ... P Cortemy
NITO THE BLACK Ms M Revelop 6-11-4 ... C McCommack (7)
J LORD PODGSSO 289 P Meximath 6-11-4 ... R Supple
02 MAGPE MELOUY 22 L Lurge 6-11-4 ... R Supple
04 MGPE MELOUY 22 L Lurge 6-11-4 ... A Thoration
07 NECCA 23 Denys Smith 5-11-4 ... A Thoration
07 NECCA 23 Denys Smith 5-11-4 ... A Chilagham
07 NECCA 23 Denys Smith 5-11-4 ... A Chilagham
07 NECCA 23 Denys Smith 5-11-4 ... D Strippitan
08-08 COS 22 W McKeon 5-11-4 ... D Strippitan
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GRAMPS-GRIL B Marray 4-10-1

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

2.15 (2m ch) 1, Monyman (R Garitty, 8-11 fav), 2, Devilty (12-1), 3, Gone Ashore (86-1) 6 ran 10l, 6l M Hammond Tota 12 10, 21.10, 23.60 DF, 25.00, CSF, 28.25 12.40 (2m hdls) 1. Best Of All (M Moloney, 16-1), 2. Shraerola (2-1 k-lav); 3. Falcon's Rame (9-4) Lively Encounter 2-1 (-lav. 11 ran 4t, sh hd. J Berry Tote: \$16.90; \$4.50, \$1.60, \$1.00 DF \$22.00 Thro: \$24.40 CSF-\$45.56 22 (6, 24.16), 3. Highland Park (A Dobbin, 16-1), 2. Snow Board (11-4), 3. Supertop (6-4 tay) 8 ran NR: Hoblan Na, 11 R Crapps Tole 214 90, 524 40, 523 0.5 11 0 DF 520 60 Ino 524 30 CSF 55623 Treast 526 14 3.15 (2m 4) chi 1, Wayuphili (8 Storey, 5-1). 2, Puntan (9-4 bay); 2, Vai De Rama (8-1) 7 ran 8t, 9t. C Parker, Tote: \$5.00, \$2.60, \$1.90, DF: £10,60 CSF £15.91. 1.10 (2m hdle) 1. Huicel Loch (A S Smith, 9-1). 2. Maple Bay (12-1); 3. Nutty Solera (5-1) Music Picase 11-8 fav. 10 ran Sh Loc 9. R Woodhouse, Tote: £8 10, £1 20, £2 30, £2.20. DF £191.20. Trio: £48.90. CSF-1100.52

2.136 (2m 4) holis) 1, Kalleton (S Malrose, 16-1); 2, Flyaney Blues (5-1), 3, Mr Christie (5-1), 4 Mrdqa 100-30 law 15 ran, 25t, 11, R Allan, Totre ESA 00; C13.80, E2.90, 98.20 DF, £338-50. Trio: £147.00 CSF: £358-637 Tricast; £1,896-49

Southwell Going: standard

12.05 (6) I. Anita's Contessa (T Spraice, 8-1), 2, Thick As Thieves (5-1); 3, Desentor (12-1) Bold Aristocrat 11-4 fav. 11 ran. Nk, 2bl. B Pafing, Tote: 52.02; 52.80, £1.90, £1.40 DF £22.90 Tno: \$82.20. CSF £45.24 Tricast £450.12 Palman, 10-11; 2, Sea God (10-1); 3, Mr Speculator (3-1) Fessh Fluit Deliy 7-4 Mr Speculator (3-1) Fessh Fluit Deliy 7-4 Mr 11 ran NR: Summer Villa, NK, 294, R Dedin, Tole: £12.30; £4.60, £2.40, £2.00 DF: £2.90 Trio, £27.90 CSF £100.18, Tricash £346.97.

191. T Thomson Jones. Tote: \$23,30; \$4,90, \$2,10, \$3,00 DF: \$44,20. Trio: \$29,30. CSF: \$75,86 289 30. Cell Pur ad 1.20 (1m 35) 1, Undawateracubactiva (Mrs. C. Williams, 6-1); 2, Reindeer Ouest, (6-4 say); 5, Kinamanyre (5th (7-1)) 12 ran 4t, 4t. M Bleiby Tote: 58.20; 51.80, 51.10, 54.40. DF: 55.30. Tribr 526.40 CSF: \$16.12. Tricest; 556.97.

CSF: \$12.77.
2.25 (6) 1, Lady Silk (J Fanning, 12-1); 2, Sue Lugana (16-1); 3, Stushing Grenadler (3-1). Nigapinger 52 tev. 10 cm 35tl. 11. Niss J Craze. Tote. \$10.30; £3.60, \$4.00, \$1.20. DF \$257.90 Tetr \$247.70. CSF \$163.20 Tacast \$987.45

2.55 (1m 4f) 1, Albehe U Quinn, 2-5 far; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2. Circled (10-1); 3, Guillver (13-2), 7 ran. 1st, 18 J Barrika, Tote: £1 40; £1 10, £3 30 DF: 28 90, CSF: 06.04 ag su, Cor: 180,04 3,25 (7t) 1, Sense Of Pnority (Alex Greaves, 5-1); 2, Eton Ledger (11-10 tay); 3, Sea Dev8 (9-1), 16 ran ½1, 61 D Nichots, Tota: £55,0; 22.00; 17.70, £2.40, DF; £5.30. Tito: £3,60. CSF: £10.57 100: 23.00. CSP: 20037 2.55 (1m) 1. Gulf Shased (S Drowns, 12-1); 2. Nordic Breeze (8-1); 3. Domino Flyer (2-1 fav), 12 rán. 294, 14. E. Astron. Tote: 210.90; 28.70, 22.90, 21.10. DF: 217.00. Trac. 2107.10 CSF: 2104.10, Tricest: 2259.82.

SAILING

Iceberg threat to Canadian skipper

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THERE were growing fears at the Vendee Globe Race headquarters in Paris last night that Gerry Roufs, the Canadian skipper, with whom they lost touch on Monday. may have sailed his Open 60.

Groupe LG2, into an iceberg. Yesterday the skipper of the Panamanian-registered cargo ship, Mass Enterprise, which has diverted to lead the search for Roufs, reported that an iceberg, estimated to be 4,000 metres in length and 50 metres high, was drifting through the zone where Roufs was last pin-

Although winds in the area - 2,600 miles from Chile and outside the range of search aircraft - are down to about 30 knots, the rescue effort is being hampered by rough

seas and fog. Roufs, who lives in France, was lying in second place, midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, when he encountered 70-knot winds on

Monday. Since then he has failed to respond to satellite-fax and radio messages from race headquarters and from his fellow competitors. None of Roufs's radio beacons are transmitting in either alert or

distress mode. Four of his fellow skippers have been attempting to to join the search, but Isabelle Autissier, of France, sailing PRB as an unofficial competitor after making a stop at Cape Town, has had to give up

through exhaustion. In Paris, where staff have had very little sleep for five days while dealing with the rescue of Tony Bullimore and Thierry Dubois, there was obvious concern for Roufs. "It is very worrying," a spokeswoman said. We have no idea what has happened, it is

terrible." For Pete Goss, in Aqua Quorum, who set sail again on Thursday from Hobart after dropping off the rescued Ra-phael Dinelli, motivation is the problem as he returns to the Southern Ocean, for the Briton is now last of the eight still in the race. He is also worried about Cyclone Drena, which is heading his way.

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CHANGING TIMES

CRICKET: BOWLERS ENJOY USEFUL WORKOUT AGAINST ACADEMY BUT BATSMEN FRUSTRATED BY RAIN

Cyclone deals early blow to England

IN NEW PLYMOUTH

ENGLAND'S one-day game against a New Zealand Cricket Academy XI at glorious Pukekura Park, the first match of the tour, was abandoned at the halfway stage yesterday when torrential rain intervened. The students had been dismissed for 201 in 41 overs when the rain, which had earlier reduced the match from 50 to 46 overs a side, returned with a vengeance.

The weather was predicted and more is expected to come today. Cyclone Drena was due to hit the northwest coast, near Auckland, last night and the forecast for today is for it to follow the route the players took on Thursday, towards the Taranaki region. It is a good job the players are heading inland today, to Palmerston North, where a four-day match against an Invitation XI

begins on Monday.
There were wickets for all the bowlers yesterday, which is not to say they all bowled with equal distinction. Cork looked a bit ring-rusty, which is not surprising after his fourmonth rest period, and Irani struggled to contain the batsmen, who were all eager to play their shots. Gough, who kept the ball up in the blockhole, and Silverwood, who deployed a canny slower ball, probably enjoyed the day

most of all. On a small, quick-scoring ground, where Central Districts last week made 376 in a one-day game. England rested Tufnell, the left-arm spinner. as well as Croft, who is nursing a sore toe. David Lloyd, the England coach. described the performance as "perfectly adequate", which is a bit of an oxymoron, though his meaning was clear. These are early days, and a match of this sort is no real guide to the

state of the team's cricket. Cork took a wicket in his second spell after his first burst of five overs had gone unrewarded. Craig McMillan, the 20-year-old Canter-

England's tour of New Zealand gets under way at scenic Pukekura Park yesterday. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

15 runs from one over, following three boundaries with a push for three down the

Cork did not look best pleased, and growled at the batsman. McMillan, who hit seven fours and a pick-up six off Irani in making 58 from 56 balls, looked a decent player.

Having missed the Zimbabwe part of the winter tour. Cork has ground to make up. An idle four-month stretch is unheard-of for an international cricketer in these frantic days, and one that he has not enjoyed since he was a tyro at Derby in 1991, before he toured West Indies with the

England A team as a 20-year-

When he finally stepped up to Test cricket in 1995, against West Indies at Lord's, Cork shone at once, to the extent that the England attack came to depend on him to an unnatural degree. He fully earned his sabbatical and should return with his powers enhanced. He looks fit and, if he regains his best form quickly, the team will be all the stronger for it.

"I felt it went OK today." Cork said. "I bowled too many four-balls, but the ball came out well enough. It was the first bowl I have had on grass

for a while and the more cricket I can get under my belt then, obviously, the better it

Caddick and Gough shared the first four wickets, helped by some poor shot selection. Dayle Hadlee, the academy coach, said afterwards that they were encouraged to play positively at all times, but only McMillan and Greg Loveridge, 21, an all-rounder, found the means to prosper.

Loveridge contributed a half-century, 54 from 58 balls, without reaching the boundary, and he appears to have an international future. A leg spinner, he played for the Test

side last year against Zimbabwe, but did not get a bowl after breaking his hand. He any side could use a good wrist spinner. England might be seeing him again before too

long. Caddick, given the new ball in place of Mulially, who was resting, ended up with three wickets, and Russell, who also has not seen much action this winter, held five catches. It is a sad sight to see Russell reduced to the margins, but he is keeping up a cheerful appearance and his turn may come

Lara leading the way into promising land into BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE burden of being generally regarded as the best batsman in the world has weighed heavily on Brian Lara in recent months. A dearth of runs and lingering questions about his regard for the ethic of team-work have, at times, reduced him to a forlorn. befuddled figure. The mood appeared to aff-

lict him in the early stages of West Indies' tour of Australia and, even when the touring team's fortunes suddenly revived, it was Curtly Ambrose, the old warhorse, who lit the flame, his nine-wicket haul in the third Test at Melbourne cutting the series defect to 2-1. Lara contributed four runs

to that victory but, since then. he has seized the torch for himself and blazed a trail that is leading his colleagues into territories they could not have

Yesterday he struck his secand successive century in the tri-nation World Series tournament. His undefeated innings of 103 from 113 balls, compiled on a turning pitch that gave encouragement to the Pakistan spinners, was punctuated with a delicate series of leg glances and gliding strokes through the slips, as well as several glorious drives off his legs, all redolent of his 1994 peak.

The significance will not have been lost on the hosts. They know that they must win their next game, against West, Indies at the Waca on Sunday, to have any chance of reaching the best-of-three final. Lara's man-of-the-match performance yesterday virtuqualification:

Having served notice of his intent with a vintage innings of 102 against Australia on Sunday. Lara showed restraint early on yesterday as he led West Indies' response to an apparently daunting total of 257. The impetus had been provided by Junior Murray, who garnered 62 from 66

balls, hitting one six and seven fours. Lara unleashed his more extravagant strokes towards the end of his stay. bringing up his century with a vicious pull through mid-

Murray may have been inspired by the need to atone for an error in the Pakistan innings, when he missed an easy stumping chance against liaz Ahmed off Jimmy Adams. The spinner, in concert with Carl Hooper, had restricted the Pakistan batsmen, inducing a reckless foray down the ich by Ijaz that went unpun-

ished by Murray. Reprieved, Ijaz went on to reach 94 most of his runs coming in a flurry of boundaries in the final 12 overs. In contrast, Mohammad Wasim laboured for 105 balls in

Total (7 wids, 50 overs)

BOWLING: Weigh 10-2-38-2: Bishop 9-1-80-0; Hooper 10-1-38-1; Thompson 9-1-48-1; Adams 9-1-52-1; Chanderpeul 3-0-

WEST INDIES Campbell b Washn Akram A.F.G.Griffith, I.R.Bishop, "C.A.Walsh and P.I. C.Thompson did not bet:

4-219, 5-242.

4-219, 5-242.

Michammaid Zehid 10-0-41-0; Saplain Mushing 10-0-45-1; Aarms Sohel 10-0-33-1; Shelid Abid 6-52-0; Igaz Ahmed Jr 2-0-6-1; Igaz Ahmed 4-0-4-0 Non of the match: & C Lan Umpires: P D Parker and R A Emerso

Maradona proves he is not the retiring type

WELL it is certainly old friends week in this column. Marge Schott has expanded her relationship with the Jewish people. Rene Higuita, the winner of more goalkeeper-of-the-week awards than you could shake a stick at. is retiring, and Diego is threatening once again to unretire when my agent comes out of

Schott, the turbulent owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team and Hitler apologist. has been treated for pneumonia in an establishment named The Jewish Hospital. One report stated that: "She is recovering and is in a stable condition for the first time in

Higuita has announced that, at 33: "I don't think I am physically able to compete at international level." Meanwhile, someone has bunged a hand-grenade into his house in Medellin, destroying the front. "It all seems so strange. I've never received threats and I have no enemies." One theory is that the blast prompted his retirement. another that it was the an-nouncement of his retirement that prompted a distressed fan to express his disappointment in this dramatic fashion.

Diego's agent, Giullermo Coppola, is likely to be released from prison soon. He was locked up after allegations that he allowed his house to be used for a drugs party. one allegedly attended by Diego, "We'll look together for a leam where I can start playing again." Diego said.

: Limited appeal

I have received more suggestions for an alternative name for the cricket-related pastime known as one-day cricket. Adrian Brodkin suggests a name based on the pyjamas in which the game is played. Jim-Jam Bim-Bam. Rather less whimsically, Ray Dunnett, bearing in mind the recent performances of the England side, suggests

Going West

I am delighted to announce that Hello! magazine is runa ning a four-page colour fea-ture on a West Hartlepool rugby union player. The name of the player, as you will no doubt have guessed already, is Liam Botham. He and his father, that wonderfully successful motivator of the England cricket team, appear in their Yorkshire home in a series of frightfully-country





On Saturday

smartly-casually-snook-It seems a long way from Brierton Lane, legendary home of mighty West Harde-pool. Here, life is a fraction

less cosy and glam. Liam's kit sponsors are Harry Tones, a Vauxhall dealer, and Keith Thomas Associates, business advice specialists. The scrum half is sponsored by Mason and Martin funeral directors. one of the flankers is supported by Britannia Fisheries; the No 8 is sponsored by Hartlepool Vasectomy Clinic.

Burgers barred

London readers will remember the sandwich-hoard-bear-ing man who used to inform cinema queues of the dangers of eating beans and sitting down. The United States appears to have spawned a millionaire reincarnation of the same man. Phil Sokolof. of Omaha, Nebraska, has taken out ads in a series of newspapers urging Tiger Woods, the golfing "phenomenon". not to sign a sponsorship deal with

'As a role model for miltions of Americans, don't encourage your generation and



mine to eat fatty. artery-clogging fast food. Please don't" Sokolof is a 74-year-

old who made a fortune in manufacturing: he suffered a near-fatal heart attack in 1966. which he believes was caused by high cholesterol levels. But there is no McDonald's deal. nor any thought of one. Woods said: "My sponsor won't let me do that. I'm involved with the All Star Café." A plague on both your houses, say I.

On thin ice

Brick of the week: speed skating. I learn, is "beetles on a whirligig ... what is not interesting is speed-skating. This is because two skaters just skate around a track." It is hard for those who do not love the sport to disagree - but all the same, it was an unfortunate remark for Goro Yoshimura to make. He is. after all. Governor of Nagano. host city of the 1998 Winter

Hair apparent Regular readers of this col-

umn will no doubt recall the Italian footbailer who was suspended for responding to his red card by kissing the (female) referee. I hear that Leonardo Ottanelli, of the third division under-21 side. Semigenese, has been suspended for three years. In the course of the match against San Lorenzo Campi, the hound approached the female: referee and pulled her

Lowest of the low Most anonymous letters are

rather tiresome, but not this one; perhaps my correspondent merely forgot to sign. He, or perhaps she, supplies a gloss on the magic number of 542 which regular readers will recall is the height above sea level of England's highest football ground, this being The Hawthorns, home of West

Bromwich Albion. I am offered, no late, alas, to reward him with champagne, the magic number of -2. I learn that Carrow Road. the home of Norwich City, is 2ft below sea level flike, he adds sadly, the team itself). Before the stupid corner infills, you could sit in the Barclay End and watch sailing boats going along the Wensum; from the River End. good views of the castle and carhedral, i sometimes looked at the match." Quite so.

Import policy continues to tax England selectors

By David Hands, Rugby correspondent

THE England selectors have already had cause to lament the increasing number of overseas players occupying key tactical positions at the leading clubs this season; yester-day their number swelled by two when Bath concluded negotiations with German Llanes, of Argentina. and Richmond unveiled Steve Atherton, who has played eight times for South Africa.
John Kingston, the Rich-

mond director of rugby, was swift to observe that Atherton, who was born in Gosport and moved to South Africa with his family when he was seven. carries a British passport. That, though, will cut little ice with the national management which would doubtless prefer to see Richard West acquiring as much experience in Richmond's second row as

Atherton, 31, joins the Courage Clubs Championship second-division leaders on a 30-month contract, while Llanes. 28, moves from Milan to play with Bath for the next 18 months. He will join forces with his Argentinian colleague. Federico Méndez, who described him as "one of the world's best lineout forwards". Llanes has played international rugby since 1990 and his appearance against England last month was his

A bull of a man weighing nearly 20st, he also demonstrated at Twickenham athleticism about the field that has been a hallmark of Bath forwards. He will offer his new club the most secure of platforms, as well as a readymade understanding with his hooker, Mendez, at the lineout. He will become available at the end of this month. whereas Atherton will make his debut, weather permitting,

next Friday. Richmond, optimisic about joining England's elite next season, are already building for 1997-98. "We're aware of the quality of rugby played in the first division and our goal is to see appropriate European rugby at the Athletic Ground,"

in the match against Newport



Atherton: top quality

Kingston said. "To do that we. have to look at quality players such as Steve Atherton. The big men here have had it easy in some respects this season. but now we have five challenging for four positions."

ACADEMY XI

A Lawson c Russel b Caddick

I D Bell b Caddick

I G Howels live b Gough

I D MeMiller o Silvenvood b Iran

Lynch c Russell fr Gough

G R Lovenidge c Knight b Caddick

J Perm c Russell b Gork

A J Hestern C Russell b Iran

B D Connor not our

B D Connor not our

B D Connor not our

Stress (b) 2 w 9, nb 33

ENGLAND XI: "M A Atherton, N V Knig

RUGBY UNION: LEADING CLUBS LOOK OVERSEAS AS UNITED STATES SEEK TO SETTLE IN CARDIFF

Atherton, 6ft 6in and 18st, last played for South Africa against New Zealand in August, but he has had more than 130 games for Natal, the Currie Cup holders, and that experience will rub off on his new colleagues. Meanwhile, one of his old colleagues, Thierry Lacroix, the France stand-off half, who spent two seasons with Natal, will provide Mike Catt with a stern examination on Catrs return to action with Bath

The first division clubs have made a concerted effort to beat the freezing weather and thus avoid a logiam of postponed league fixtures. Though Sale's game with Saracens has gone, other teams are optimistic that a combination of pitch covering and hot-air blowers will allow them to play, though there are pitch inspections at The Stoop, where Lacroix's team, Harlequins, play Bath, and the Bristol Memorial Ground, where Wasps are the visitors. Wasps will be without Simon Mitchell, their injured hooker, and Bristol have doubts over Simon Shaw, the England lock.

Wales aspiring to soar above Eagles

BY GERALD DAVIES

two countries have played each other at Cardiff Arms Park. Since then the Eagles have appeared in the 1991. World Cup, but were denied a place in 1995 when Argentina qualified for South Africa.

The optimism of their breathless enthusiasts was still evident, though, "See y'all in Wales in '99," declared the age alongside the Stars and Stripes that decorated a corner of Ellis Park, Johannesburg. Today, with ten of their squad playing in Eng-land and Wales, might give an inkling of how far down the road towards that objec-

tive the Americans are. This is an unprecedented sixth appearance by Wales this season before the five nations' championship begins next weekend. Whether Wales, during this period, have advanced their cause remains in the balance. They beat the Barbarians and Italy, but lost to France, Australia and South Africa, against whom true measurement still has to be made.

Wales remain on a learning curve. They seem still to be developing as a team, not much else can be added with any conviction. Looking at the changes that have occurred, this is as it must be. The team

WALES, who play the United has not yet settled to a firm States Eagles this afternoon, and predictable selection. won by 40 points in 1987 on Each constituent part has had the only other occasion the its changes; faces come and go or are to be found in different places. Since the first outing in August, against the Barbarians, only four players have been constant factors: Evans, Howley, Loader and

Liewellyn.

Those who have returned to union from league seem to be settling in comfortably. Gibbs — who has been handed the captaincy because Humphreys is suspended and Bateman have provided stability in midfield. Young would appear to do the same at prop. Much, therefore, is expected of the re-emergence of Scott Quinnell, whose splendid try against France offered such promise in 1994. That developing rugby countries are no longer the pushovers they once were should not alter the fact that

Wales need a comprehensive victory this afternoon. This would boost their confidence before travelling to Edin-WALES: J Thomas; I Evans, A Bateman, S Gibbs (captain), G Thomas; A Thomas, R Houley, C Loader, G Jerhan, D Young, G Unicelyn, M Rowley, S Williams, S Curmed, C Charvis, Replacements: J Daries, P John, C Channel, G Jones, L' Musice, B Williams.

Williams, C. Charles, M. Williams, V. Andoni, F. Williams, W. M. Scharlesberg, B. Hightower, M. Alecandor, A. Bachelet, R. Leimer, T. Billups, B. LoClerc, C. Yogi, A. Pariser, D. Lyle (captain), R. Lumbong, J. Willerson, Popilacements; C. Lippati, S. Allen, J. Wester, B. Howard, E. Scharns, C. Morrow, Resieres, L. Meyne (tretand).

FOR THE RECORD A Section

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Second preimpray round Group E. Charlette (86), 68 Strand Man 71. Olympiants (67) 82 CSFA Microse 51 Abil Borlet (7) Abil School Borlet (7) Abil School Borlet (7) Abil School Borlet (7) Abil School Borlet (8) Europea Fill Ethickents Madrid 25 Group & Dunier Microse (8) Parisonal Microse (8) Parisonal Abil Group M. Barchana 17 Andre Beignade (fingline)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Toronto 115 Urah 98, Minneson 110 New Jersey 107 Allunta 97 Orlando 92 (OT), Golden State 102 Vinnoculum 86

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Kimberley (one day) Signaland Wast 278-7 (W M One 72, 2 M Samard 54) Indiana 276-3 (S C Garguly 11) S R Trindullar 51) Indiana were by 12 S. R. Tunculkar 51) Indians will by John William Schill D. Sydney (second day of Jam New South Make 1.05 and 1834 (R. Dayson 79 not out.) Worsen Australia 24 (S. B. Hody St. B. E. McNamars 5-75). Melbourne reseand day of lour 1. Examans 35 force D.J. Marsh 97, D.C. Boon 75, M.P. Wersen 5-5 not out. S. Young 50; McCora 174-9 (R. P. Wersen 5-5) Auditable 1875 day of lour 1. South Australia 283-5 (D. S. Dhriman 185 not out.) D. Sudnar 61, M.P. Faul 50; V. Quiperkhad SuPERSORT SERES first day of lour. Conturion, Nathern Transmal 191-3 (B. J. Sommerskie 62 not out v. Border.

DARTS FRINLEY GREEN Embossy would championiship. Charter finals: 11 James (Viales) or A Carter (US) 4-3 S Beston Eng. bt L Lauren, (Be) 4-3 FOOTBALL

POSTPONED: Gittert League of Water: Newtown v Llansantinad Thursday's late results AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION Loague Gup: Caudit D Bratel Cay 3.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier descent Bot to 1 Detty Count; 1
SPANISH CUP: Their round, first leg: Real Marcel 2 Valented 1

CARLSBAD, California, Mercedes Champoraships: Leading Sist-round scores (Univer State) for P Govern J Funk 89 G Boros J Leonard F Cauties 70, D Love, J Windows, S Loves T Walson, C Paun, P Staticardi, S McCarren 71; M Braton, E Fon D Hart C Rose, L Roberts, C Static P Mathebor, M O'Meas 72; E S SSA'S S Shahor, N Faito (GS), M Shooks ES ISAN S STAFFOR IN POINCE (195), WE STOOKS MELBOURNE. Victoria Opera Largers after two rounds (Australia unique school) 138: S Learney ES 72 138: E Victoria 69, 69, 138: P Barricky 71, 68, F Particley 11, 68, 1 Price 68 71, 140: D Chops a 73, 60 71, 69, R Bagán 74, 66, S Tat 67, 73 °S Collins 59, 71 British school: 141: S Cops 72, 69, G Evans 71, 70, 146: 8 Jacobson 72, 74

WESTON: Florida: US LPGA Champion of champions fournament: Lauding Bestround scores (fulfad States union: States union of States union). The B Whishead, C
Pomo 158: B Mucha, E Daniel, D CosJones, P Bradley, A Screnstein (Swo), 73: L
Daniel, GEB, D Pobject, L Neumann (Swo), M McGarin, N Lopez, J Liebach, R Jones, A
Nachous, (GB). HOCKEY

EDANBURCIA: Four nations indoor tourna-ment Scotland 6 North America 5, Australia 4 South Alma 4 Final standings 1, Scotland, 2, Australia, 3, South Alma: 4, North America. ICE HOCKEY SUPERI EAGUE: Newcasale 1 Notingham O Cardin 3 Sheffield 2: (NHL): Boston 5 Normed 4 Coloredo 2 Ottawa (7 Tampe Bay 3 Philadelphia 1, Washington 2 NY Rangons 0: Calmol 5 Phomps 4 (OT); Colyany 3 Harthord 2: Los Angeles 6 Buffalo 3 St Louis 4 San Jose 3.

MOTOR RALLYING DAKAR-AGADES-DAKAR RALLY: Such stage (Cao to Moreda): Cans: 1, K Stronglez (Lepen, Mitradech) 3tr 14mm; Seet; 2, J-P Forteney (Fr. Missacket) 426; 4, J-K Stronglezh (Go. Bappy 1711; 5, H Massoke (Lepen, Mitsaketh) 1928. Overeit: 1, Stronglez 27tr 12mm 55sec; 2, Torteney at 23, 3, Saby 416; 4, Massoke (125.23; 5, S Serve (Sp. Nessen) 253 52. Motorcycles: 1, S Peintrunsel (Fr. Yarnsha) 3h: 25mn 53sec; 2, T Megneldi (Fr. KTM) st. 201; 3, J Arcstons (Sp. KTM) 448; 4 comm. J Lewis (US, KTM) and O Gallerdo (Sp. Capina) 728: Ower&t 1, Peterhersel 28h 19min 51sec; 2, Arcstons: et 1:1522; 3, Gatastio 2:00:13, 4, Lewis 2:1524; 5, D Casteria (Fr. Yernsha) 2:19:28 RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First round: Wigan St. Judes 14 Wigan Rose Badge 24. SWIMMING

PEKING: World Cup short-course meeting: Marx 200cm freestyle: 1, I Wiscon (GB) 7min 55.04sec; 2, J Bucar (Stoventa) 834.50; 3, Xia Xusang (China) 8:10.18. **TABLE TENNIS**

KETTERING: English Open: Round-tobin qualifying: Sien's singles: Second stage: 1 Totumars (shore) to A Sien (Engl 20-22 21-16, 17-21, 21-10, 21-13; E Weller: Scot) by T. Keinzih. (Ser) 13-21, 21-18, 21-19, 21-21, 21-19, 21-21, 21-19, 21-21,

Chetolean [Fr] bit T Kahnath (Ger) 16-21.
21-12, 21-18, 19-21, 28-26; K Langarov (Austria) bit A Cooke (Eng) 21-13, 22-20.
21-12; S Cadieni [Fr], bit E Marsushita (Japan) 18-21, 21-13, 21-14, 20-22, 21-19; T Tokingani 18-21, 21-13, 21-14, 21-12, 21-13, 21-15, 2

TENNIS

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TENNIS

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Sampras and Graf remain focused as rivals succumb

By DAVID MILLER

AS ANOTHER year commences with the Australian Open on Monday, and with the game ever more intens-ified, it is doubtful if any player can ever emulate the achievement of Don Budge, Maureen Connolly, Rod Laver (twice), Margaret Court and Steffi Graf, who won all four grand-slam titles in one year. The tournament in Melbourne is already ravaged by withdrawals, the crowded pressure of the calendar stretching players beyond physical limits.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, from Russia, who was seeded fourth. withdrew yesterday, having broken a bone in his hand during gymnasium work. He had to give Pete Sampras, the top seed in Melbourne, a walkover to the final in the Kooyong Classic. His replacement as No 4 seed is MaliVai Washington, the Wimbledon finalist last year.

Also absent will be Andre Agassi, who remains short on motivation even though he has said that he will compete for United States in the Davis Cup; Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, after knee surgery; Todd Martin, the 1994 finalist, with tendonitis; Cedric Pioline, of France, with a back injury; and Jason Stoltenberg, of Aus-

tralia, after wrist surgery. Thomas Enqvist, 22, the Swede who is seeded No.8, pulled out of the Kooyong event with infected blisters, but hopes to recover in time for Melbourne. Jim Courier, the champion of 1992 and 1993, who slumped in the rankings last year but is intent on regaining a position of prominence, is bothered by

a hamstring strain. Such is the depth of the men's game that any of the top players can unexpectedly fall to a lesser name, which is good for the sport, yet makes it unlikely that a top player can win more than a couple of grand-

FOOTBALL

FA Certing Premiership

slam events in any one year. The Melbourne organisers must be hoping for the survival of their top seeds, Sampras and Graf, with the possibility of two intriguing finals: Sampras against Boris Becker, the defending champion. and Graf, pursuing her fifth Australian and 21st grand-slam title, against Martina Hingis, 16, the naturalised Swiss from the former Czecho-

slovakia, who is seeded No 4. Sampras, who is drawn to meet a qualifier in the first round, will uncomfortably recall his exit last year, when he went out in straight sets to Mark Philippoussis, the big-serving Greek-Australian, who this year comes up

Mark Petchey and Andrew Richardson are one match away from reaching the Australian Open after victories in the second qualifying round in Melbourne yesterday. Petchey beat Des Tyson, of Australia, 6-2, 6-3 and Richardson beat Aleiandro Hernandez, of Mexi-00, 6-3, 6-4.

against Tim Henman, the Briton, in the opening round. Sampras, who has the prossamples, who has the pros-pect of meeting Wayne Fer-reira, of South Africa, in the quarter-final, and Goran Ivanisevic, Courier or Thomas Muster in the semi-final, is in optimistic mood.

"Last year, with no disrespect to Philippoussis, I was not well when I came to Australia following the Davis Cup [against Russia in Moscow, but this year I'm really ready and eager," he said. Sampras and Becker met in two of the most memorable

matches of last year, in the ATP world championship finals in Hanover in November, Becker winning at the round-robin stage, Sampras winning a gruelling, spectacular five-set final. This is a

potentially epic final; both are in the right trame of mind. The impression is that Becker is, nowadays, playing primarily for his own satisfac-tion. I don't feel any pressure," he said yesterday. The most important thing, especially at this stage of my career, is to enjoy every day of your life as a tennis professional. After winning Wimbledon at 17 or 18, there was nothing really left to prove, so enjoyment always became im-portant." He has admitted. however, that his ambition before retiring in a few years' time is to reach, once more, the No I ranking position. "That is always the ultimate dream," he has said. His semi-final is scheduled to be against Michael Chang, whom he beat in

the final last year. The durability of Graf against a background of repetitive and variable injuries, together with the anguish of her father's prosecution for alleged tax fraud, is remarkable. At times last year she played supreme tennis, particularly when taking three of the grand-slam titles after missing the Australian event. The one thing I don't have trouble with is motivating myself," Graf said. There is no chance of a final against Monica Seles, the champion. Seles having been obliged to withdraw with a

For Hingis - who took Graf to five outstanding sets in the WTA finals in New York in November - to reach the final, it is likely that she must defeat the recovering former teenage protégé. Jennifer Capriati, in the quarter-final, and Arantza Sánchez Vicario in the semi-final. There are two absorbing first-round matches: Anna Kournikova, the young Russian, against Amanda Coetzer, of South Africa, the No 12 seed, and Mary Pierce, the troubled champion of 1995, against Elena Likhovtseva, who defeated her last year.

broken finger.



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AUSTRALIAN OPEN SINGLES DRAW

Mem (1) P Sampras (US) v qualifer; A Vones (Plami v H Dreelemann (Ger); M Woodlonde (Aus) v M Tebbus (Aus). H Gumy (Ang) v D Sansyschev (Bal), S Stolle (Aus) v D Hrbaty (Stoeles); N Kutil (Swe) v K Alami (Mor); T Carbonel (So) v D Vacel (Cz); T Larkman (Aus) v (16) A Bensalegu (So); 1(1) A Costa (So) v B Staffer (Aus); J Kroslak, (Stovelos) v A Gautternz (Br.; A Radulescu (Ger) v S Draper (Aus); P Dewild (Bel) v qualiter; P Transachr (Aus) v J van Herck (Bel); Cualiter v R Furtan (Br.; P Cash (Aus) v J van Herck (Bel); Cualiter v R Furtan (Br.; P Cash (Aus) v J Frama (Arg); C Codes (So) v (8) W Ferreas (SA); (3) G Ivamseec (Cro) v B Ellwood (Aus); P Haartus (Hol) v K Kucera (Stovelos); Qualiter v J Novak (Cz); C Woorkali (US) v M Norman (Swe); M Tifestrom (Swe) v G Kuerten (Br.; A Chashokov (Russ) v N Gowen (SA); L Paes (Indi) v J Crabb (Aus); C Rund (Nor) v (15) J Siemerink (Hol); (11) J Course (US) v Schallen (Hol); 9 (Dose (US) v Schallen (Hol); 9 (Dose (US) v S Schallen (Hol); 9 (Dose (US) v S Challen (Hol); 1 J Santho (So) v G Stafford (SA); Cualifor v S Drosecia ((Zz); M Rosset (Sen) v M Auselo Gomiz (Sp); J Tarango (US) v G Stafford (SA); Cualifor v S Drosecia (Cz); J Toherasson (Swe) v M Damm (Cz); S Karbecher (Ger) v M Auselo Gomiz (Sp); M Göttler (Ger) v K Cartsen (Den); B Ullmach (Cz) v J Bortman (Swe); W G Suser (Den); B Ullmach (CS); D Princel (Ger) v F Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Gellegen (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Meigenn (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v Sender (Br); A Boetsch (Fr) v qualiter; I Rouz (Fr) v C

J Stark (US). Questier v T Woodbridge Hus): S Seman (Fr) v G Blanco (Sp.): S Sangsan (Arm) v M Orchuska (SA): Outsider v (4) 1 M Washington (US): (7) T Enquist (Sae) v N Perera (Ven). B Steven (NZ) v R Fromberg (Jaus): Quesifier v S Buguera (So), M Larsson (Swe) v J-A Viloca (Sp.): Quelifier v G Schieller (Austra). Qualifier v A Cometje (So): M Joyce (US) v R Canetera (Sp): P Konda (Ca) v R) M Pizzo (Chile): (15) M Stach (Ge) v P Fredriksson (Swe), T Champson (Fr) v A Modwedev (Ufri: Qualifier v Qualifier; D van Schieppingen (Holi) v B Black (Zim), G Risout (Fr) v D Nestor (Can), M Prispippousses (Jus) v T Herman (GS), R Renaberg (US) v qualifier

Women

(1) S Graf (Ger) v J Husarova (Sovakia); E Dominiknac (Aus.) v L Nedand (Latva), 1 Gonochategus (Arg) v B Stevent (Aus.); E Callens (Bel) v G Fernandez (US); L Lee (US) v B Malei (Stovakia); F Zuhega (Col) v qualifier: J Kendari (Ger) v K Nagatsula (Japan); A Koumbiova (Russ.) v (12) A Coetzer (SA); (10) B Schulz-McCerthy (Hol), v Park Sung-Hee (S Koi), R Hardid (Japan) v L Richterova (C2): G Leon Gerca (Sp) v K Po (US); C Crisee (Flom) v A Suggema (Japan); J Taylor (Aus.) v M-A Suggema (Hol); S J C (Mathiaz (So) v K D Certson (So); J C Mathiaz (So) v M Oremans (Hol); S Dopler (Austra) v A Gers (C2); A Cartson (See) v P Langrova (C2); P Hy-Boulais (Can) v A Dechaume-Bellerst

Denaby v Asmilett, Glazshoughton Weltere Matthy MW: Helsen v Beber Town; Helsen v Matthy MW: Helsen v Beber Town; Helsen v Brag Town; Casati Town v Ossati Alton, Pickering v Armthorpe Weltere, Thackley v Shelfled, PEDIETATION, BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE; First division; Billinghern v Morpeth, Chesterle-Street v West Auckland; Crook v Estergfor; RTM Nevestie v Weldhern, Seeham Red Ster v South Shelds

Morpeth, Chessier-le-Street v West Auckland;
Crook v Estergiforr RTM Newcastie v
Wickham, Seeham Red Star v South Shelds
SOUTH EAST COUNTES LEAGUE: First
division: Postponad: Cembridge Uid v
Southend: Chelsea v Arsenal, Fuffam v
Charlitor: Postponad: Cembridge Uid v
Southend: Chelsea v Arsenal, Fuffam v
Charlitor: Chelsea v Arsenal, Fuffam v
Charlitor: Chelsea v Arsenal, Fuffam v
Charlitor: Levico
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Cousers Park Rangers v West Henry Westord v
Totterham Second division: Totterham v
Resading (11 0), Postponad: Barnet v
Bournemouth: Crystal Palace v Southamptor: Lution v Cotichester, Oxford Uaf v Bristor
Resaders: First division: Biglymena v
Derstlord, Wycombe v Brighton.
SMIRNOFF RISH LEAGUE: Premier divectors. Genesian v Glentonan, Linfield v
Crusaders: First division. Biglymena v
Destillery, Carnet v Newry, Lame v Ballyclase,
Orisigh v Bangor.
FAI HARP LaGER CUP: First round: Cobin
Ramblers v Stipo (7 15), Denry v Crumin U
7 30): Dubth University v Perhvilla (20);
Home Farm v Glentoner Celbic (7 30); Longtord v Si Francs (7 30), UCD v Brisy id 15)
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGH-LAND LEAGUE:
Cove v Lastiermouth, Deveronnale v Rothes;
Fort Millerm v Natur County; Fesserburgh v
Clactrinacuckin, Huntly v West, Academy;
Keth v Eggn, Peterbead v Forces Mechanics
OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Old
Aloysans v Clapham OX; Old Ignistans v
Cauther Aloysans v Clapham OX; Old Ignistans v
Couch End Vampans v South Bonk,
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(Fr), N Avench (US), v K Boogert (Holf); R Grande (fil v A Mantolio (So); A Grassman (US) v A Muler (US), H Sukuva (C2) v (16) S Appelments (Bell; (13) E Lidoutseva (Rus) v M Pierra (Fr); L Chen (Chros) v N Werdel (Wirmeyer (US), A Elwood (Aus.) v L McNeil (US), N Zvereva (Bela) v N Faber (Bel); S Caoc (US) v W Probst (Ger); F Lubiani (til v R McCell); N V V Probst (Ger); F Lubiani (til v R McCell); N W Probst (Ger); F Lubiani (til v R McCell); N W Probst (Ger); F Lubiani (til v R McCell); N W Braddinish (Mas); P Suarez (Arg) v K Yschwendi (Lasinia); A Otsta (Pol) v S Ferna (til), J Capnell (US) v W Braddinish (Ms); C Moratis (US) v W Braddinish (US); C Moratis (US) v N Braddinish (US); C Moratis (US) v N Braddinish (Ms); C Moratis (US) v N Braddinish (Ms); S Talaisa (Fol) v (9) K Hobsudova (Slovaka); (11) J Wiesner (Ausria) v R Dregomir (Rom); V Ruano Pascuel (Sp) v C Torrens-Valero (Sp); S Hack (Ger) v qualifier, P Begerow (Ger) v qualifier, G Heigeson (Nelson (US) v A Fusal (Fr); B Schell (Aus) v L Remmon (US); S Patner (Ger) v (4) M Hingis (Swez), (6) I Majol (Cro) v P Schnyder (Swez); K Radford (Aus) v M Encol (Japani); C Qualifier v L Ceritova (C2); Qualifier v L Ceritova (C2); Qualifier v L Ceritova (C2); Qualifier v S Pritcowski (Fr); F Labat (Arg) v A Kremer (Luc); H Nagyova (Slovaka) v E Ger); R Stubbs (Aus) v T Whitinger-Jones (US); A-G Slotot (Fr); v E Wagner (Ger); R Stubbs (Aus) v T Whitinger-Jones (US); A-G Slotot (Fr); v E Halco-Villella (Arg) v D ven Roost (Bel), D Chradkova (Slovaka); S Testud (Fr) v E Halco-Villella (Arg) v D ven Roost (Bel), D Chradkova (Slovaka); S Devence (Slo)

BOXING

Akinwande needs win to enhance credibility

By Srikumar Sen SOXING CORRESPONDENT

IT WILL need an impressive performance from Henry Akinwande when he defends his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight title against Scott Welch, of Brighton, in Nashville, Tennessee, tonight to convince British boxing fans that he is truly world class.

Since the WBO heavyweight championship is very much a second-division competition and Welch has yet to acquire international recognition, the bout will be seen as little more than a British championship unless Akinwande can show that Welch is not really in his league. Akinwande will need a spectacular finish or a onesided points win to prove this.

Those who know the champion say it will be one-way traffic and that the 6ft 7in Akinwande, who has an 82inch reach, will pick off Welch with a stinging jab before knocking him out with a right. Welch says he knows how to avoid the leading hand. "Just go for him as Mike Tyson would, don't stand there at the end of his lead or he'll stick it in your face all night," he said.

The champion's chin has never been tested; nobody has caught him with a full-blooded blow. If Welch can slip past the left and land a right cross. the contest could dramatically change in his favour.

On the undercard is a potentially explosive contest between Kevin Lueshing, of Beckenham, and Felix Trinidad, who holds the International Boxing Federation welterweight title. Lueshing is not in the same class as the Puerto Rican, who is unbeaten in 30 contests, but the Englishman has a puncher's chance. Colin McMillan, the former WBO featherweight champi-

ough, at York Hall, Bethnal Chris Eubank will be back in the ring on February 27 for a title bout in Dubai. It is the first of a series of contests he plans to have in the Gulf state.

on, continues his comeback

tonight against a tough oppo-

nent in Paul Ingle, of Scarbor-

IN BRIEF

Financial troubles increase at **Hull KR**

HULL Kingston Rovers were yesterday served a winding-up petition by the Inland Revenue for an unpaid bill of nearly E250,000. The action comes shortly before the club's application to the High Court in Leeds on Monday to be put in the hands of administrators, in order to reduce debts reportedly approaching () million (Christopher Irvine writes).

The plight of the second division champions is a warning to Wigan, themselves nearly £3 million in the red, of how the mighty can fall. Wigan have the opportunity at a shareholders' meeting today to clear their debts and build on solid financial support. Shareholders will be asked to give their recommendation to the Wigan board on three options, including the sale of Central Park, which could put up to £7 million into the club

Scots hopeful

Hockey: Scottish hopes of winning the World Cities in-door tournament in Glasgow have risen after successes in the DTZ international tournament at Kidderminster and the outdoor Los Reyes event in Barcelona, At the Kelvin Hall today and tomorrow, eight teams will take part in what could be the forerunner to the first world indoor championship. Five cities, Canberra, Johannesburg, Copenhagen, Madrid and Glasgow have selected their respective national teams for the event.

Craig decides

Cycling: Nick Craig will make a last-moment decision on whether to defend his British Open cyclo-cross championship at Sutton Coldfield tomorrow after suffering a heavy cold.

Team game

Bowls: Europe's leading players will be invited to test their skills in a new competition, the Guernsey European team championship, to which eight teams will be invited next September.

RUGBY LEAGUE

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First-round reptay

Clayton v Normanton... Second round

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(3) Leeds v Leicester
(4) Liverpool v West Ham
(5) Middlesbrough v Southampton ...
(6) Middlesbrough v Southampton ...
(7) Sheffield Wednesday v Everton ...
(8) Sunderland v Arsenal
(9) Wimbledon v Derity ...
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21 10 5 6 29 19 35
Chelses ...
21 9 8 4 33 29 35
Everton ...
21 7 7 7 29 29 29
28 29 28
Sunderland ...
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Sunderland ...
21 6 6 9 21 30 24
Coventry ...
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Middlesbrough 21 4 6 11 25 40 18
Notm Forest ...
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Middlesbrough 21 4 6 11 25 40 18
Notm Forest ...
21 9 8 10 19 38 17
Southampton ...
21 8 10 19 38 17
Southampton ...
21 8 10 19 38 17
Southampton ... Nationwide League First division 14) Oldham v Huddersfeld 15) Portsmouth v Bolton not including last night's metches Second division (26) Plumpath y Crews UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First

| 31 | Barnet v Scurithorpe | 32 | Brighton v Northerpoton | 33 | Carotif v Lincoln | 34 | Carotif v Lincoln | 35 | Caristie v Torquay | 36 | Chester v Harilepool | 37 | Doncaster v Colchester | 38 | Fuffram v Darlington | 38 | Herstord v Mensfield | Hull v Swernses | Leyton Orient v Flochdale | Wilgan v Searborough | P W D 1. F (1) Aston Villa v Newcastle (2) Blackburn v Coventry ... (3) Leeds v Leicester Fulhern Carisle Cembridge Uid Wigsn Northempton Swenses Cardff Torquay Chester Hull Leyton Orient Colchester Scunthorpe Scunthorpe Scanthorough Bernet Hartlepool Variothall Conference (---) Bath v Morecambe Bath v Morscambe
 Bromagrove v Stalybridge
 Dover v Southport
 Dover v Southport
 Dover v Southport
 P
 Gatesheed v Telford
 Hayes v Stevenage
 Hednestord v Ridderminster
 Macclesfield v Woking
 Northwich v Kattering
 Northwich v Kattering
 Rushden & Diamonds v Halitax
 Stough v Femborough
 Welling v Altrinchatin Bell's Scottish League Premier division First division (44) Clydebank v St Mirren (45) Dundee v Airdrie (46) Greenock Morton v East Fise (47) Stirling v Fallerk Second division Tennents Scottish Cup Second round

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES Purineer, Dagerinary and Headscloge v Bore-harn Wood; Dulwich v Enfleid; Grays v Staines; Hendon v Yesding, Hitchin v Susson United; Kingstonian v Hendow; Si Albans v Bishop's Startiond. Postportad: Bromley v Yeow; Castrallian v Alpeebury; Orden City v Heybridge: First division: Abingdon Tourn v Billenicey; Aldershot Town v Cheshan; Barton Hovers v Bognor Regis: Besingsables v Whyteleasts; Berintanested v Tooting and Michert, Croydon v Thame; Hempton v Leyton Pennen; Mardenhead United v Molseev; Marlow v Moknobarre Welton and Wityleisele, Bertmannsted v Tooling and Michest. Croyclon v Thame; Hemplan v Leyton Pennent, Masdanhiead United v Molesey, Martow v Wolangham, Watton and Hembarn v Usbridge, Wortfang v Canvey Island. Second division: Orbiton St Peter v Bracknet; Chestunt v Tibury, H Hempstead v Leighton Town; Horsham v Ware; Hurgerion? v Wifferen; Lestherhead v Edguere; Methopolitan Police v Bediord T; Windon and Eton v Dorking. Third division: Ausley v Rysons and Eusel; East Thurnock v Captor, Facional, Heath v Harbor, Homonuch v Southalt; Lewis v Kingsbury; Timg v Camberley; Waldistorne v Branstee. FA CARIS, Whatistorne v Branstee. FA CARIS, Whatistorne v Branstee. FA CARIS, Whatistorne v Branstee. FA CARIS, Belling to Heath v Harbor, Homonuch v Town v Herne Bay; Barting v Woodendaye Town. Bedfington Tenfer v Duniston FB; Bernerton Heath v Coll Row and Rominor; Concord Rangers v Whitstakle Town; Guisborough Town v Tow Law, Huckneth Town v Spelling; Teiley Wellian v Durham, (1 30); Whittip v Nantakich Town. Poutponed; Histon v Northwood; Mangatelled United v Taurton, Mossley v Cogenhoe United; Reading Town v Bransted Ahrs, Sushand Marror v Misbech, Samidor v North Farifay; Thatcham Town v Therton Th. GRIBERT LEAGUE Of WALLES; Bargor Chy v Corwy (2 30); Barry v Ton Perfe (2 30); Camarther Town v Cumbrain; Camarth Welsering v Stansted, Sawbridgeworth v East Ham. LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amerisam v. Hillingston Boro; Berkingstele v Weltham Abbey, Cocklosters v SI Margaretsbury. Croydon v Bangton SI Marys; Hamwell v Woodford; Harefield v Beaconsteld SYCOB; Russip Marror v Brimsdown Res screedurg? UPSECTY I SAGUE: Premier Mays; Harman V Woodbatt; Trateled v Beaconsield SYCOB; Ruistly Marror v Brimsdown Rev State of the State of Beaconsield SYCOB; Ruistly Marror v Bristol Marror Ferm; Chard v Beach Marror Ferm; Chard v Bidelord; Emore v Bridgewäter; Paution R v Caine; Westbury v Beckwell.

JENNON WESSEX LEAGUE: Finat division: Toston v Downton; Aerostructures v Gosport: Burrennouth v East Cowes; Brockanhurst v Whitchunch Christohunch v Potsmouth; Course Sports v Ryde Sports; Eastleigh v Andows; Romesy v Potschildt.

HELLENC LEAGUE: Premier division: Arrondebury v Endsleigh; Burnham v Brackley; Didcot v Swindon Supermishe; North Leigh v Tuffley; Wantage v Kindbury. **FOOTBALL** Gal-off 3.0 unless stated FA Carling Premierable Tottenham v Mancheeter Linked (4.0) ... Nationwide Lasgue First division Wolverhampton v West Bromwich (2.10) Beil's Scottlett Laegue Premier division Rangers v Aberdeen Pay HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Cork v Cadway (2.0): Gards v Drophede (2.0): (Meanny v Bohemiers (2.16): Steamonk v Umarick (3.15): Valencer Stanks v Rocimount (2.0): Wayside C v Firm Harps (2.0): Whitefail v Dundank (2.0) UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fourth round: Assessed v Barn: Chainsford v

IJK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fourth round: Asseral v Berry. Chelmstard v Huddersteid; Chelcen v Millerit, Chelcesteid; Chelcen v Millerit, Chelcesteid; Chelcen v Millerit, Chelcen v Luerpool; Doncasier v Sheffield Wachnesday, Gasswoods: Helene v Reston; Highfield v Berthamsteid; Preston R v Derham; Hestling v Leyton Chiert. Sherborne v Evertor. Southampton v Whitehanik; Stockport v Bengor; Indianham v Coller R; Trampers v Wernbley, Postponect Asson Ville v Brighton; Ipswich v Middlestrough. RUGBY UNION Weish League First division Ebbw Vale v Uenell (2.30) RUGBY LEAGUE Club matches Cartsia v Sarrow (2.0)
Feetherstone v Hunsler (3.30)
Hull v Oldham (3.0)
Leigh v Swetton (3.0)
St Heiens v Wigan (3.0)

GUIZ: Premier diseasor: Ash v Cranleigh: Bedions v Cohlein; Comithian-Casuals v Chipotead; Cove v Ashdord, Farithem v Rayinte Park Vale; Godalming and Guidlord v Fethram: Walton Casuals v Meritham; Westfleid Sanchurst. MIMERNA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier: Relator v Hottleshor: Helpenoett, Potars Ser V (cotangon)
O'Brien-Midiserade Butchers Trophy: Fournit
round: Brache Sparis v Buckrighern Arhietic;
London Cohey v Royston
JENSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE:
Pramier dhision: Hatstead v Hedeigh U.
Herwich and Parkaston v Gorleston; Lowestoff v Diss; Newmarket v Sudbury Riss;
Soham v Werboye; Stoumarket v March;
Sudbury v Falsenham, Watton v Falssowe P
and T.
WINSTONLEAD IGNIT LEAGUE: First division: Contential v Themestread: Deal v
Chothami, Folkastone Indica v Cray, Hythe v
Faussham: Snepply v Wodiskch; Sade
Green v Contribian, Turbridge Wells v
Backenham. Bacterham,

JHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE:
Premier division: Bourne v Boston;
Desborough v Kempstor: Holbeach v
Eynesbury: Long Buckby v Northampton
Speriner; Amiriese Blackstone v Wacotion;
Newport Pagnell v Stotistic Potion v Ford
Sports; S and L Corby v St Neotis
SYTERIANK EXPRESS ALLANCE: Boldmere St M v Blomatch Town; Bridgmorth v Knypensey V, Chastown v Willenholt;
Hatesoweth H v Rustrall C: Citibury U v
Stratford T; W Mid Police v Rocenter
BNDSLEIGH INSURANCE: MIDILAND CONSIDERATION: Premier division: Alvecturativ Covernty Sprinto: Highgate v Biston
Community Collega, Massey Ferguston v
Biotapial S; Striley v Handraham Timbers,
Souffram v Cland Lloyd; Welsebourne v
Richmond Switts, West Midland Fire Service v
King's Health, Wordstern v Kenthamfth
Cup: Fourth round: Colestall v Studiey BKL;
Knowle v Creslyn Hay.

BANKS'S RREWERY LEAGUE: Premier
division: Briefley Hill T v Darlasston. Gomel
Res v Crafley Town. Lye Town v Walsaji
Wood; Mishem T v Bloometh S; Stelland T v
Stourport S; Wednessfeld v Tiwicklei, Wolverhampton United v Etingshall H; Westfields v
Hill Too R. Beckentent UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Hill Top R

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Cititerce. Burscough v Eastwood H; Danwer v Rossendale; Hollier Cld Boys v Gloscop North End, Marre Road v Chapterior, Saltord v Pennith, Traflord v Atheron Colleries; Klostgorue v Yausthall GM, Prescot Cables v St Helens. Cupt Second round: Brode v Newcastel Town.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Elonjant v Wildelans; Foresters v Brondoods; Lenning v Chipdelans; Foresters v Brondoods; Lenning v Chipdelans; Foresters v TOMORROW HOCKEY

HOCKEY

NIDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Prailmining rounds: At Perdiawal, Worcester.
Cannock v Harborne (10 0); York CS Tropns.
v Firebrands (10 50); Doncaster v Hufl
(11 40); York CS Trojuns v Cannock (12 30),
Hufl v Herborne (1 20); Firebrands v
Doncaster (2 10), At East Grinshead: East
Grinshead v Blueharts (10 0); Isoa v Reading
(10 50); So Albans v Old Loughtonam;
(11 40); Isoa v East Gunstead (12 30); Old
Loughtonams v Blueharts (1 20); Reading v
St Albans (2 10).
WORLD CITIES INDOOR TOURNAMENT
(Kelvin Hay, Glasgow); Play-offs (9 30).
MEN'S CLUB MATCH: Hourslow v
Teddington (12 30).
MDLAND WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Backford v MIDLAND WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Bedford v MDUNUT WORDEN'S LENGUE BEACHT IV Alandos, Kettering v Pickrotick Lacester II v North Statis; West Brommeth v Hempton. WOMEN'S COUNTY MATCH: Staffordshire v Lancatahire (Stone). WOMEN'S CLUB MATCH: Snaffield v OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Shef-field v Hernál and Weiserd (5 30); Leopards v Newcastle (7.0) National League: Ment First division: Guidford v Oxford (8.0); Spelann v Solani (4.0), Women: First division: Thannes Velley v Horthampton (4.0). ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Net Ayr (6.30); Manchester v Basingst Bradwell v Shefteld (6.0).

Chester (7:30) Hermel and Watbord v Crystal Palaze (7:30): Tharms Valley v Leopards (8:0): National Lasquet Metr. Fast division: Bury and Botton v Westmarster (7:30): Guid-ford v Waha (8:0); Linetpoid v Med Susses, (3:30); Nothergharn v Cardiff (8:0); Chorn Dipt. Phyrouth v Covenity (7:30) Wottmat. Plant division: Barthregharn v London (4:0); Crystal Palases v Barking and Degartam (6:0); Hartissden v Iptawech (7:0): Northampton v Spetthorne (6:0); Tharms valley v Rhondda (5:45); Sheffield v Nottingham (6:0). HOCKEY

INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary rounds: At Perdament, Worcester: Carmock v Frebrands (11-30), Doncaster v Harborne (12-20), Hull v York CS Trolans (11-10), Doncaster v Carmock (20), Frebrands v Hull (2-50), Hurborne v York CS Trolans (11-30), Harborne v Thebrands in South (13-30), Harborne v Frebrands in South (13-30), Harborne v Frebrands in South (13-30), St. Albart v Doncaster in 6-10), At East Grinstead (2-00), Fleading v Old Loughtonians v Isca (11-30), Old Loughtonians v Isca (11-30), Old Loughtonians (2-50), Fleading v Old Loughtonians (2-50), Fleading v Old Loughtonians v East Grinstead (1-30); Electrats v Reading (5-30); See v St. Albarte (6-10), WORLD CITES INDOOR TOURNAMENT (at Kohw Hall, Gaspow: Media v Verna (12-40); Battangham v Copenhagen (9-5-5); Canberra v Glasgow (11-45); Meditit v Verna (12-40); Battangham v Copenhagen (1-35); Canberra v Glasgow (13-5), Canberra v Johannesburg (6-10), Johannesburg v New York (7-50), Johannesburg (6-10), Kenna v Birmingham (1-35), Canberra v Johannesburg (6-10), Glasgow v New York (7-50), Johannesburg (6-10), Kenna v Birmingham (1-35), Canberra v Johannesburg (6-10), Mastrino AZZIJRRO LEAGUE Premier Lasguer Old Minightans v Soencer Harmonian Martinesburg (6-10) Media Minightans v Soencer Harmonian Martinesburg (6-10) Media Minightans v Soencer Harmonian Martinesburg (6-10) Media Minightans v Soencer Harmonian Martinesburg (6-10) Minightans v Soencer Harmonian (6-10), Minightans v Soencer (6-10), Minightan HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LÉAGUE: Premier Languer Old Whitpittams v Sciencer Hampshire/Sumey: Old Mid-Whitpittams v Sciencer Hampshire/Sumey: Old Mid-Whitpittams v Basingstoke. Kent/Sussex: Blockheath v Bognoti, Medicition v Worthing. NOTITH LEAGUE: Float division: Hampsque V Formbyr, Nestron v Ben Flavidian; Nortion v Tumperley, Ramagerlay of Steffield Bankers: Southscort v Chester, Swelheet v Springfields. MEM'S CLIB MATCHES. Addidge v Santout T; Farcham v Lewes: Oxford Hawks v Purley (11.30). Oxford University v Dunham Lithversity. University.
WIOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Beth v Veter
Bournemouth v Winchester (†1.20); Baci
Gloucs v Rediend (†0.30); Hampstead v
Rover Coeley, Handon v Bichopt's Sortford;
Hempston v Cohwelt, Lalcester v Aldridge
(2.0), Newport v Rediend, Reading v
Southempton (10.45); Woor Witney v Kel-CARLETTENNES: English Open (as Kattering)
VOLLEYSALL: National League: Man: Prest
titheton: London v Loughborhagh (1.30);
Caudiard v Britarnes. Nation: Coly (2.30);
Simingham v Esser (12.46); Orphigion v
Shaffield Wednesday (2.30)

International metch Courage Clubs Championship First division

SECOND DIVISION: Postponed: Black-heath v Newcasile, Nottingham v Moseley, Richmond v Bedford: Rugby v Rotherham, Wekafield v Coventry, Waterloo v London Scotisch Third division

Bristol v Wasps (3 0)

Clitton v Redruth (3 0)
Fylde v Lydney
Liverpool St Helens v Leads

Fourth division north Fourth division south

Camberlay v Berry Hill Plymouth v Newbury POSTPONED: Askeans v High Wycomber Charlton Park v Weston-super-Marc Chettenham v Henley, North Walsham v Metropolitan Police; Tabaid v Barking SOUTH WEST: First division: Brithern v Malson, Glouceste Old Boys v Laun-ceston; Maldonhead v Camborne: St Ives v Bridgwater, Stroud v Bernstable; Torquey v

LONDON: First division: Norwich vi Guildford and Godaining: Russip v Thur nock Southend v Esher; Staines v Old Mid Whightener; Sudbury v Old Coffeans Sutton and Epsom v Beangstoke: Wimble ton v Harlow. ABDLANDS: First division: Hinckley v Camp Hill. Learnington v Burton: Learning Buzzard v Broad Street; Manskeld v Beigreve; Southforpe v Barkers Button Stockwood Park v Whitehurch; Stafford v Wolverhampton; Syston v Westleigh

AUSTRIA

Obergurgi

St Anton

FRANCE

Megève Méribel

Evalier

Tiones

Cervinia

LMgno

Murran

SWITZERLAND

20

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain.

Val Thorens

Bractions and tangley, New Brighton v Broughton Park; Sedgley Park v West Branthope; Stockton v Macclesfield; Tynedale v Widnes; Wigton v Bridlington Swalec Cup Fifth round

Blackwood v Hirwaun Welsh Lazgue Second division Abertillery v Cross Keys
Pontypool v Bonymaen
South Wates Police v Llandovery
Ystradoynals v Caroff institute
POSTPONED: Aberevor v Blackwood;

Maesteg v Abertymor THIRD DIVISION: Llamberen v Kenfig Hilt Merithy v Penarth; Narberth v Buith Well Pyle v Tresteger; Tendy Unided v Tondu Postponed: Mountain Ash v Rumney, Tennents Premiership

Second division

Dundee HSPP v Gala (2.0) Edinburgh Acads v Glasgow HK (2.0) ... Glasgow Acads v West of Scotland (2.0) Kelso v Buggar (2.0) Third division Glasgow S v Preston Lodge (2.0) ... Klimamock v Peebles (2.0) Musselburgh v Kirkcaldy (2.0) Sellark v Slewari's Mehille FP (2.0)

Fourth division Glenrothes v Hithead/Jordanhill (20) Gordonians v Langholm (20) Grangemouth v Corstorphine (20) Haddington v Ayr (20) Insurance Corporation League First division

Blackrock College v Young Munster
Cork Constitution v St Mary's College
Dungarnon v Old Wesley
Instonians v Ballymena
Old Crescent v Garryowen Shannon v Lansdowne Terenure College v Old Selvedere Second division Beclive Rangers v Monistown
DLSP v Malone
Deny v Greystones
Highlield v NIFC
Sunday's Well v Dolphin
UCC v Skemes

CLUB MATCH: Clontari v Moseley

Weather (5pm) Last °C snow

fine 2 9/1

cloud -4 9/1

fine -3 8/1

sun -5 7/1

tog -2 10/1

SNOW REPORTS

Conditions Runs to

40 140 good varied good fine -5 4/1 (Great sking: some lcy/hard spots at untergurg!)
45 180 good varied icy sun 0 4/1 (Ptenty of good skring, great weather and no crowds)

60 160 good veried good cloud -1 9/1 (Good sking but poor visibility some new snow) 65 136 good varied good snow -1 10/1 (Fresh layer of powder on good base: poor visibility)

180 240 good varied good cloud -4. (New snow freshing pistes: great skling)

70 170 good powder good tog 2 (Fresh powder and great skiing: mixed visibility) 50 200 good powder good tog 1 (Expellent skiing in sunshine above 2,000m)

110 good varied good (Fresh snow all levels, good skiing)

130 275 good varied good fine (Fantastic conditions, periect sking)
105 200 good varied good cloud (Overall, conditions very good; powder still available)

150 440 good crusty good (All pistes in excellent condition) 100 200 good heavy good (Good skiing, best at altitude)

Oft/p resort

BRK v Egremont
Oudley Hill v Dewsbury Moor (2:30) ...
Hull Dockers v Eastmoor
Leads University v Thatto Heath
Lock Lane v Heworth
Millord v East Leeds Millord v East Leeds.
Siddal v Beverley
Skirlaugh v Leigh Millers.
Wainey Central v Millorn.....
West Hull v Haydock......
Woolston v Kaightey Albion.... NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Askarı v Leigh East, Barrow island v Thomhill Second division: Postponed: Featherstone Amelieur v Shaw Cross OTHER SPORT

BOWLB: Denny Cup: Sbath round: Cambridge Park v Preston; Cny ot Ely v Barfung. Bastol v Bodmir. Starley v York-Dectorough v Dorchester; Cythers v East Dorse; Thornaby v Hult; Ningsihorpo v North Weisham. North Welsharm.

BOXING: World Bowng Organisation heavyweight championship: Henry Alonwarde (London, nolder) v Scott Welch Prognton); International Boyding Federation webseweight championship: Febr Trindad (P Rico, helder) v Keyen Lusship: (Beckarrisen) in Nostivillo. Tennessee) World Boyding Council super-bandamweight championship: Deniel Zargoza (Mex. holder) v Weyne McCallough (Beltas) in Boston, Massachusetts) British teather-weight championship. Colin. McMillen

DARTS: Embassy world championship (a) ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr y Cardill (6 0), Nottingham y Bracknet (7 0), Basingstoke y Shalfield (6.30) TABLE TENNIS: English Open (at

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men First division: Leads v Menchester Unite (2:30) Cup: Shetfield v Stoke (6:0)

EXCELLENT CONDITIONS NORWAY

Excellent skiing at major resorts including -**Geilo, Hemsedal**, Lillehammer Gudbrandsdalen & Voss

60 0171 321 0666 NORWEGIAN TOURIST BOARD - SKI HOTLINE -

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

Arsenal welcome back David Seaman, their goalkeeper, and may need him. In this, the second of their three-match series with Sunderland, they will be without their main striker, Ian Wright. Wright and Hartson will also be suspended from the forthcoming FA Cup third-round replay. Bergkamp has now been laid low by a virus. So David Platt may return to his old role as striker: but has he still got the pace? There should be a chance up front for the promising Shaw.

DERBY COUNTY

Marino Ramberg, the young

Swedish forward, begins a two-I month loan at the Baseball Ground next week on the recommendation of no less a source than Lennart Johansson, president of Uefa, If all goes well. Derby can sign Ramberg from Degerfors for around £700,000. "It is a perfect arrangement because we can see him play without having to offer a long contract first." Jim Smith, the manager. said. Igor Stimac is out for five weeks after a hernia operation.

Keeganless Newcastle visit Vil-

la Park this afternoon on a tidal wave of grief. Boo hoo: sob. sob. Will they blow Villa away, and later dedicate victory to their dear yet departed general, or will they emerge a confused, bedraggled outfit and submit meckly? Villa will ignore the emotional baggage and concentrate their minds. especially as there is fierce competition to win the club's most prestigious honour — the Big Steak Pub/Wacky Warehouse

ASTON VILLA

EVERTON

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

SUNDERLAND

Peter Reid, the manager, has declared his opponents today at

Roker Park. Arsenal. to be:

David Pleat, the manager, has had some good news and some bad. The bad is that Benito

Carbone will be sidelined for at

Player of the Month award.

Everton return Hillsborough, where a hattrick at the end of last season made Andrei Kanchelskis the club's top scorer. "I'm ahead of schedule this season. I've already got six and I only had five at this stage last year," Kanchelskis said. He has just been appointed Everton's penalty-taker, which should help. Unsworth and Phelan are available again, but Ebbrell and Parkinson are still absent. leaving Rideout and Stuart likely to continue in midfield.

BLACKBURN ROVERS It is unfortunate after a long

unbeaten stretch, but Blackburn must change a winning team that has taken them out of the bottom three of the Premiership and into the fourth round of the FA Cup. Billy McKinlay, so important to the Blackburn revival since the departure of Ray Harford. the former manager, is suspended and Rovers will miss his combative approach in midfield. Garry Flitcroft will deputise after recovering from a five-week injury

LEEDS UNITED

Rob Molenaar, the latest recruit of George Graham, the manager, may be needed today, He could be pressed into service for an earlier-than-expected debut, with Palmer and Halle suspended, Radebe on international duty, and Pemberton and Jobson long-term injuries. The attack, though, is still looking thin, with only one goal in the last six games. Leicester's visit today begins an important month for Leeds, with games against Derby and West

HOW THEY STAND

22 42 21 40 21 38

20

37 37

CHELSEA Scott Minto is in doubt, which

could mean another chance at left wing back for Andy Myers. Gianluca Vialli. snubbed this week by Cesare Maldini, the new Italy manager, seems destined for the bench again, the forward combination of Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola being so productive. With Roberto di Matteo so emphatically back in form in midfield. Chelsea could control this game, not least because Eddie Newton has strengthened that midfield since his return.

LEICESTER CITY

Martin O'Neill, the manager.) took the squad to Bournemouth this week to enable his players

to train outdoors on grass for the first time in 1997. Three successive fixtures have fallen victim to the weather, but that has not enabled either Steve Walsh or Mike Whitlow to recover from injuries in time to play at Leeds this afternoon. Neil Lennon, who has a broken toe, was braced for a painkilling injection, only to discover that he begins a two-match suspension.

COVENTRY CITY

Heady days at Highfield Road, with 13 points from a possible into an intoxicating twelfth place in the Premiership. However, the 2-2 draw against Sunderland on New Year's Day proved costly for Bryan Richardson. the club chairman. In a gush of pre-season optimism, he had staked \$10 at odds of 100-1 that his brave lads would reach 25 points come 1997. Failure to beat Sunderland left them on 23 ... and Richardson rueing the £1,000 pay-out that got away.

LIVERPOOL

Pity poor Rob Jones. After nine months out with injury, he finally made his return to firstteam action in midweek. but now he is out again - for one game only. because of a groin problem. 'It is wise to give him a rest, but Rob will be back next week," Roy Evans, the manager, explained. Jones's injury means that Jason McAteer will return to right wing back and John Barnes will return to the midfield after missing the embarrassment at Middlesbrough in midweek.

MANCHESTER UNITED

Y Undersoil heating is all very well, but even United have not got it at their training ground; so yesterday they trained at Old Trafford, their first outdoor session of the week. Beckham and Butt are among the question marks, but the main problem tomorrow is likely to be at left back, with Irwin not expected to be fit and Philip Neville out: that might lead to another flirtation with three at the back if Pallister is fit. David May will have his groin operation next Saturday, so will play.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Bryan Robson's men may be in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals but avoiding relegation re-mains the issue and the home fixture today against Southampton is rightly perceived as a six-pointer. Middlesbrough have won just once in their last 15 league games. Meanwhile. Craig Hignett has forced his way back into the first team and is endorsing the claim of Gordon McQueen, the reserve coach, that he is the club's most technically-proficient

1 Liverpool

Chelsea .::: 8 Everton 9 Sheffleld Wed...

Sunderland.

16 West Ham

18 Middlesbrough. 19 Nottm Forest

Coventry 13 Derby 14 Leicester

3 Manchester Utd......

NEWCASTLE UNITED

PB

Naturally enough, things are a little confused at St James' Park. The players are leaving nothing to chance and there has been more than a little respect shown to Peter Beardsley this week, given the

rumours that he could become part of the new management team at Newcastle. All the drama surrounding Keegan's departure has overshadowed one significant piece of injury news. Faustino Asprilla has recovered from a hamstring problem which has sidelined him for six weeks.

Last five

DLDDW

LDLWW

TWWDM WMTDD

WOLLL

WLW13

-DLLLD

DDUL

DLWDW

lge games

diff

+16 +10

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Stuart Pearce, the caretaker manager, is facing a dilemma over Nigel Clough, on loan from Manchester City. While he wants to sign the forward permanently, he has no cash to offer and is reluctant to allow any of his players to leave in exchange. "As far as I know I am going back on January 19 when the loan expires," Clough said. At least he will play against Chelsea this afternoon, while Chris Bart-Williams and Paul McGregor are available

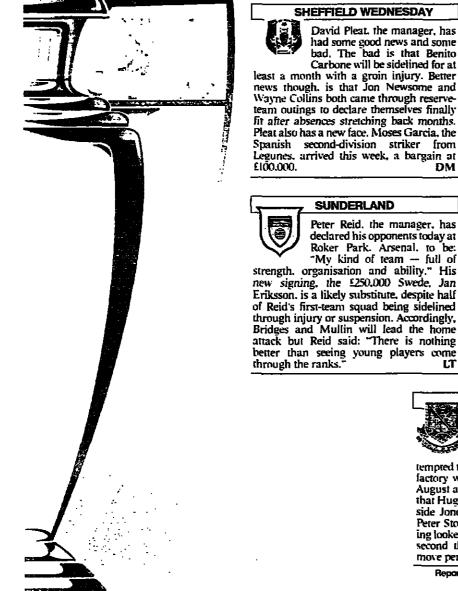
SOUTHAMPTON

Few goalkeepers would de-scribe playing behind South-ampton's accident-prone defence as "a dream come true". but Maik Taylor, a lifelong supporter, is an exception. Signed from Barnet on New Year's Eve, he makes his debut at Middlesbrough, where Southampton seek their first away win. That will require Taylor keeping a clean sheet, assuming Southampton score their customary single away goal. Middlesbrough will want revenge for a 40 Dell defeat back in balmy September.

after injury.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Spoilt for choice is not a phrase that Gerry Francis, the manager, has been too familiar with this season yet, after the signing of Ramon Vega, the Switzerland centre back, he now has a surfeit of talent in central defence. Perm any three from Vega. Campbell, Calderwood and Scales seems the most simplistic solution but what happens when the long-serving Gary Mabbutt's broken leg has finally mended? Sadly, a phrase involving the words on, your and bike spring to mind.



better than seeing young players come through the ranks."

Having declared that he wants battlers rather than bottlers for a rejegation right, Harry knapp, the manager, will be

tempted to give Steve Jones, the former soap factory worker, his first league start since August at Anfield. There can be little doubt that Hugo Porfirio will keep his place alongside Jones in attack even if, according to Peter Storrie, the managing director, "having looked at all the snow, he may be having second thoughts" about making his loan move permanent.

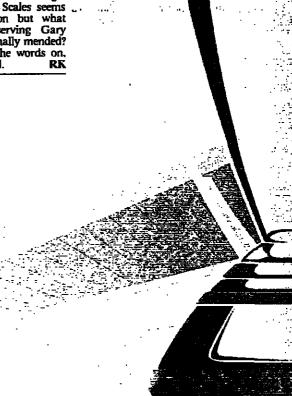
WEST HAM UNITED

Victory in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final on Wednesday tion for Wimbledon, whose

recent enforced break (two league games and an FA Cup tie frozen off) at least gave Earle and Perry time to recover fitness for the win at Bolton, where Chelsea and Tottenham had previously fallen. Vinnie Jones hopes that the result will finally change attitudes. "People can stop saying what a fairytale it is," he said. "Fairytales are for kids, not professional footballers."

WIMBLEDON

Reports: Brian Gianville, Peter Ball, Russell Kampson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Kelth Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough





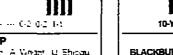
ASTON VILLA V NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

TOMPAR RECORD 25 to 24 to the total CO 60 141

HOW THEY LINE UP ASTON VILLA (rom), M. Bosmon, F. Nelson, A. Winger, U. Ehiogu. S. Staunton, G. Soulingste, C. Tilor, R. Sonneca, A. Tovinsend, I. Tavior, T. Johnson, S. Curdo, D. Yorke, G. Miloseita, J. Jidaachtin, E. Hondhe

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from) P. Sinicia, W. Bartor, J. Beresterd D. Botti, D. Peacoo, P. Beards of, A. Shoarer, L. Fertinand, R. Balott D. Sinicia, S. Hipopolik, Bulcapa, S. Natson, L. Cark, P. Albert, P. Kitson



MIDDLESBROUGH v **7** SOUTHAMPTON 10-YEAR RECORD. -- 3-3 -- -- -- 2-1, --. -- -HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from) G Warsh, N Cax D White, S Vickers Emerson R Musico Juminho, F Rhane') C Fleming, C Blackmore, C Highett, M Beck, P Stamp, B Roberts, J.A. Fjortoff, A Moore, 2 Housett, March, P. Stamp, B. Roberts, J.A. Fjortoff, A Moore,

SOUTHAMPTON (from: M. Tautor, P. Benali, C. Lundelvarn, I. Maddison, D. van Gobbel, A. Madron, E. Berkovic, R. Stater, M. le Tissier, E. Ostenslad, D. Brasont, G. Watson, J. Magitton,

LEADING SCORERS 16: | Wright (Arsenal)

11: R Fowler (Liverpool), D Yorke (Aston Villa) 10: L Ferdinand (Newcastle United) 9; E Ekoku (Wimbledon), M Le Tissier (Southampton). F Revanelli (Middlesbrough), O G Solskjaer (Manchester United) 8: D Dublin (Coventry City), G Vialti (Chelsea)

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING

7-4: Manchester United, 5-2: Liverpool, 5-1: Arsenal, 11-2: Newcastle United ,10-1: Aston Villa, 12-1: Chelson,



BLACKBURN ROVERS v COVENTRY CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, --, 2-5, 2-1, 4-0, 5-1

HOW THEY LINE UP BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, C Hendry, H Berg G to Saur, T Sherwood, L Schinen, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, N Marker, G Flatroft, S Given, G Donis, P Warhurst, N Gudmundsson,

COVENTRY CITY (trom) Si Ogradero, B Sarrows, L Daish, P Wittams, R Shaw, P Teller, K Richardson, G McAllister, J Salako, D Dublin D Huckerby, E Jess, W Boland, M Hall, R Genaux, A Ductos, J Filan

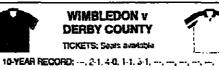
NOTTINGHAM FOREST V CHELSEA

TICKETS: Soata available 10-YEAR RECORD, 0-1, 3-2, --, 1-1, 7-0, 1-1, 3-0, --, 0-1, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from). M. Crossley, D. Lytile. S. Pearce, C. Cooper, S. Chettle. D. Philips, A.I. Haoland, N. Clough, I. Woan, D. Saunders, K. Campbell, B. Roy, C. Bart-Williams, C. Allen, N. Jerkan, C. Armstrong, J. Walker, V. Warner, T. Wright.

CHELSEA from: F Gradas, M Duberry, F Leboeut, E Johnsen, D Petrescu, E Newton, R di Mattec, D Wise A Myers, G Zola, M Hughes, G Valu, C Burley, K Hischcock F Smclair, M Nicholls, N Nicholls, N Nicholls, M Nicholls, M Nicholls, N Nicho

DERBY COUNTY TICKETS: Seats available



HOW THEY LINE UP WIMBLEDON (probable): N Sullivan, K Curningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, C Perry, N Ardicy, V Jones, R Earle, O Leonhardsen.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Houll, M. Taylor, J. Laursen, D. Yates, G. Rowell, C. Porasii, D. Powell, R. van der Laan, C. Dailly, A. Assnovic, D. Sturridge, M. Gabbiadni, R. Willerro, P. Simpson, L. Carsley, S. Rlynn, A. Ward, M. Carben, D. Wassall, J. Kavanagh, P. McGrath.



LEEDS UNITED v LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: ---, 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, ---, ---, ---, 2-1, ---HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn. G Kelly, D Wetherall, P Beesley, R Molenaar, A Dorigo. R Wallace. M Jackson, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Harte, I Rush, B Deane, A Gray. A Couzens, M Beeney

LEICESTER CITY (from). K. Keller, S. Grayson, N. Lewis, P. Kaamark, C. Hill, S. Prior, J. Watts, M. Ezet, G. Parker, J. Lawrence, S. Wäson, S. Campbell, M. Robins, S. Ctandge, E. Heskey, K. Poole, S. Taylor, J. March-ell



10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 1-0, 1-1, 1-1, --, 2-1, 3-1, 5-1, 0-0, 2-5.

HOW THEY LINE UP SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from). K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, D Statanovic, G Hyde, M Pembridge, G Whittingham, R Blinker, A Booth, R Humphreys, S Nicol, S Oakes, O Donaldson, D Hirst, M Clarke, O Trustfull, W Coffins.

EVERTON (trom) N Southalf, E Barrett, T Phelan. D Watson, D Unsworth. A Kanchelskis, G Speed, A Grant, N Barmby, D Ferguson, M Branch, R Dunno, M Hotoger, A Limpar, P Gerrard

TOMORROW



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v .. MANCHESTER UNITED TICKETS: Sold out

HOW THEY LINE UP TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from) I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson. D Howells, R Fox, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, S Nelheroot, J Edinburgh, E Baardson, A Nielsen, R Allen, N Fern,

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, 1-1, 2-2, 2-1, 1-2, 1-2, 1-1, 0-1, 0-1, 4-1

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, D May, R Johnsen, D Beckmann, N Bult, R Keene, R Giggs, A'Cole, E Cantona, O G Solskjaer, P Scholes, B McClair, K Poborsky, R van der Gouw,



LIVERPOOL v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 0-0, 5-1, ---, --, 1-0, ---, 2-0, 0-0, 2-0

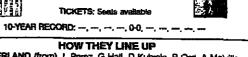
HOW THEY LINE UP LIVERPOOL (from) D James, J McAteer, S1 Bjornebye, P Babb, M Wright, D Matteo, J Barnes, M Thomas, S McManaman, P Berger, M Kennedy, R Fowler, S Coltymore, A Warner, M Cerragher, N Ruddock, S Harkness.

WEST HAM UNITED (Irom): L Miklosko, T Breacker, M Rieper, S Bitic, S Potts, J Dicks, D Williamson, I Bishop, J Moncur, K Rowland, F Lampard, M Bowen, M Hughes, S Jones, F Reduction, H Portirio, M Newell, L Sealey, S Laziridis.



SUNDERLAND V ARSENAL

TICKETS: See availat



HOW THEY LINE UP SUNDERLAND (from): L. Parez, G. Hall, D. Kubrcki, R. Ord, A. Mehville, D. Kelly, D. Williams, P. Bracewell, M. Gray, M. Bridges, J. Mullin, C. Russell, S. Aiston, J. Eniksson, P. Hackingbottom, D. Preeca

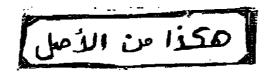
ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, A Linighan, A Adams, P Vieira, M Kaown, S Bould, N Winterburn, R Parlow, D Platt, P Merson, D Bergkamp, M Rose, R Garde, J Hartson, J Luido, P Shaw.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION 1944

10.40pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday 3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday Tottenham Hotspor v Manchester United (live)

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fe-cerling.com/



FOOTBALL

Taken over by City gents playing a dangerous game

n extraordinary week, indeed an almost surrean end at St James' Park. Kevin Keegan's departure, his ability to drop out of sight does nothing to deflate the emotions engendered around Newcastle United or to diminish the fact that his emotive drive and Sir John Hall's commercial acumen had propelled the fallen club higher than most people had imagined was possible.

it was sport fuelled by money and it was the second period of Kevin Keegan's Pied Piper effect, the first as a player ... and he is so much younger than the past two months made him appear that it is by no means fantasy to rule out a third coming on

Meanwhile, the fusion of money, of television, of what once was a game, is being taken over, we are told, by the City gentlemen who, with the 1150 million Newcastle United flotation in mind, apparently feel they have the power, the knowledge and the right to determine who should manage the footballing affairs of

Heaven help us. Heaven help the Rootball League that, curiously enough, was founded by William McGregor at Aston Villa, where Newcastle's next era, temporarily under Ter-

McDermott and Arthur Cox, begins at three o'clock this afternoon. The manner

vhich professionalism has come through 109 years has always been to have its business run — many would say misrun — by people whose business brains may not have been of the very highest cali-bre, but who at least had an appreciation of the peculiar aspects of football finance and who had an allegiance to the colours, an affection for the tribalism, of England's football dubs.

Sir John Hall, whitether he stays as chairman or defects into some kind of honorary presidency, has been a man of both worlds, an entrepreneur much as coal dust beneath his fingernails. Elsewhere, those inflated importance, is a li-

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

should beware. Manchester United shares are too expensive all the rest may prove

In London, Alan Sugar, a man who has found the addictive aspect of football irresistible, even through periods of hostility, faces a weekend in which his enforced loosening of the purse-strings, his spending of £10.5 million in recent weeks, is put to immediate test. Last week his club, Tot-tenham Hotspur, went out of the FA Cup; revenue lost. Tomorrow, facing Manchester United for a second time, Tottenham need to win to

What do they know of football; what, deep down, do they care?'

maintain faith in their ability to qualify for the Uefa Cup next season; to regain income. ness of football speculation; it is not like selling computer terminals; it rests on the fallibility, the inspiration of individuals in a feam game. Yet, in Newcastle and in-

deed at the City Ground, in

Nottingham, we are told that managers, the men who live by results, can be chosen on whim of people providing the "new money" in the sport. What do they really know of football and its fortunes? of outstanding achievement What, deep down, do they and a Geordie, brought up care? What is the attraction, with football in his mind as other than the perception that football's new, televisionhigh finance. One looks abroad, to Milan, where Silvio Berlusconi, prime minister for such a short time, is panicking now that he has hired and discarded two managers in a matter of months, and still the team cannot convert defeat into instant victory, still the price of his acquisition of the club and his pride falls.
One looks to France, to the rapid rise and collapse of

transient nature to this whole

marriage between football and

Marseilles. Its president, Bernard Tapie, brought business practices, sharp practices, to football. He is in court next week, another chapter in the disgracing of the club that his money lifted to European Cup fame and which, in that hour of glory, was found to have corruptly "bought" matches.

Everything that existed before me is still going on," Tapie said yesterday. "I intend, in the court, to name all the personalities in French foot-ball because I invented

He alleges that, Samson-like, he will pull down the pillars, he will testify in pique to corruption right through the club structure, showing that the malpractices that he brought from his business world to the so-called sporting league are rife. It does not end there.

Money and ignorance have fuelled sport for decades and the men responsible have been João Havelange and Juan Antonio Samaranch,

the Latins who rule international football and the Olympic movement, not because they corrupted the ideals, but because they recognised and welcomed the triangle of sportsponsorship-television their Latin wiles opened up major sport to major business

And in Newcastle, it has an almost frightening extra ele-ment. Frank Clark, the Geordie who left Nottingham Forest for Manchester City, identifies it as "quasi-religious fervour". Fittingly, this lunch-time, Cardinal Basil Hume, who usually declines requests to discuss his lifelong passion Pearce for Newcastle United, is to pontificate on the subject on Radio 5 Live. Might he offer a prayer for football as we have

Hard man now allying brain to brawn

STUART PEARCE THE FACE OF **FOOTBALL**

By Andrew Longmore

Dower seems to have gone to Stuart Pearce's head. As a manager, he has revealed a seam of intelligence and humour not often evident in his work on the field. From the moment he told viewers to Match of the Day that his first Nottingham Forest side, jotted down on the back of an envelope in his kitchen late at night, looked great until he counted a dozen names, Pearce has shown a nice line in self-deprecation and brought a refreshingly innocent tone to the all too serious business of football management

The problem is that Forest might need all 12 of Pearce's original team at the City Ground today to combat a Chelsea side that is just beginning to flow. The miracles dried up after the unlikely defeat of Arsenal in Pearce's first match as playermanager and, though results have improved since the departure of Frank Clark to Manchester City, not even Psycho's uncomplicated style of man-management can hide the deficiencies of a team short of firenower or invigorate a club reduced to impotence by internal power struggles.

Pearce has been caught up

in the middle of it all. This week, he lost his chaperone, Alan Hill, the assistant manager, who followed Clark to Maine Road. But while his instinct is to roll up his sleeves and get on with the job, it would be naive of any incoming consortium either to take Pearce's presence for granted or ignore his influence. Pearce's popularity on the streets of Nottingham is unquestioned. At times over the past five years, it has seemed was Forest and will strengthen his hand and his confidence - immeathis month whether to drop someone else to muck out the



A City Ground favourite, Pearce has also earned admiration throughout football

the "caretaker" from his managerial title.

Pearce said his decision would be based on the effect the responsibility was having on his football and his personal life. He would not need colour pictures of a haggard Kevin Keegan to remind him of the toli modern football management exacts, be it on the sleepy Trent or the passanother win this afternoon ionate Tyne. He has seen Brian Clough disintegrate before his eyes. For a start, his surably when he decides later wife, Liz, will have to hire

horses. For another thing, the phone never stops ringing "Just when you think that's it for the day," Pearce said

recently, "it goes again and

someone wants to buy your reserve team goalkeeper Less surprising is the news that his form remains unbroken. Like a good old car, there is not much that can go wrong with Pearce's football, even if the surging runs and his thumping left-footed strikes that characterised his early days are a little less frequent

Ask any foreign player to draw an identikit picture of the typical English footballer and the image would be readily identifiable. Pearce is easy to caricature and easy to

despise, too, the ultimate

product of a system that

reveres physique over tech-

nique, stamina over skill. A full-page colour photograph in a recent issue of most of his critics rolling in the aisles. Pearce is trying to control the ball, with his left

'His strengths have become a proud symbol of the English game'

ing it, just, but the seemingly simple act is demanding such overwhelming physical exertion, such monumental concentration, backside out. bullneck-size thighs taut arms splayed for exaggerated balance, it is reminiscent of a circus artist performing a breathtaking new trick. And now, ladies and genileman. for the first time ever, Psycho will attempt to trap the ball ... As far as you can tell, there is no one within ten

At times, often when etched in relief against classy oppo-nents on an international stage, Pearce's clumsiness has been an embarrassment Yet, his robust skills have been treasured by Bobby Robson and Terry Venables, and valued enough for Glenn Hoddle to persuade him out of international retirement

yards of him.

Pearce has not tried to embellish his game. Like his taste in music, which has rarely strayed far from The resolutely unfancy, as Gianfranco Zola will doubtless find out this afternoon.

ola, whose diminutive frame Pearce will try to locate and stiffen, will his time and he is quite able to handle himself. But Pearce is in a different class. He is not sly or dirty. He is not, on the whole, a shirt tugger or heal-clipper. He just knows that true happiness can only be found when ball and man become one and both have been dispatched into Row B. Pearce, for all the teeth-

baring and fist-clenching immortalised at Wembley in Euro 96, has never encouraged the Psycho worship any more than he swallows senti mental rubbish about lovalty Pearce has been at Forest for ten years, loves the club and the people. "But," he once "there's no way I'd accept £100 a week just because I like it here."

The difference now is that, since scoring his soul-cleansing penalty against Spain, his strengths have become common currency, not a source of the English game. Everyone admires Pearce, for just what he is. Nothing more, nothing

Forest fear reaction from supporters at takeover vote

selves for a difficult afternoon at the City Ground as Nottingham Forest shareholders, who blocked a takeover bid for the club five days ago, bear the brunt of ill-feeling from supporters (Richard Hobson writes). Forest, second from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, entertain Chelsea and Mel Hart, chairman of the supporters' club,

appealed for calm.
It has crossed our minds that there might be trouble, but we cannot afford to become another Brighton and Hove Albion," he said. Brighton were deducted two points earlier in the season after crowd misbehaviour at the Goldstone Ground.

Last Saturday, as Forest knocked Ipswich Town out of the FA Cup, shareholders, who have their own enclosure, came in for barracking as expectations grew that they would reject a £13 million offer of immediate cash from the consortium headed by Sandy Anderson. Two days later, they followed the predicted course as they failed to give Anderson the required 75 per cent approval.

Some supporters feel that a minority of shareholders (79 of the 203 voted against Anderson) are

out for personal gain, awaiting a bid from a second consortium that includes Nigel Wray, the part owner of Saracens RFC, and Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, which could not them more than £13,000 each. Yesterday, the supporters' club, in protest, staged a mock meeting at which the Anderson bid was

in reality, the future remains uncertain amid rumours that an American consortium, led by Albert Scardino, a spokesman for Bill Clinton in the 1992 primary elec-tions, will submit a bid next week, and that Anderson will draw up a

Andy Lowe, editor of the Tricky Tree fanzine, said: "We are frustrated because the shareholders had the chance to sort the matter out down. Meanwhile, we are heading nent deal after that."

towards relegation." Irving Korn, the Forest chairman, urged supporters to be "both patient and

understanding". The most significant consequence of the week's activity is that Stuart Pearce, the caretaker manager, is still unable to add to his squad. "Ruud Gullit [the Chelsea manager) can put himself in the team when he likes, otherwise he can spend millions of pounds. I would love to be in that position." Pearce said

Tomas Brolin, the Sweden international, was yesterday finally given permission by Leeds United to train with his former club,

Parma, for the next two weeks. Brolin has not played for Leeds under George Graham, the new manager, and is keen to leave the English club he joined for £4.5 million from Parma in November

"He is training with Parma until January 23," Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, said. "We'll know once and for all and they turned it more about any possible perma-

Footballer accused of cocaine use

ADAM TANNER, the Ipswich Town utility player, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after testing positive for cocaine (Russell Kempson writes). Tanner, 23, could face a lengthy suspension because the drug is regarded as an aid to performance.

Last night the player expressed his "immense regret" adding: "I would like to apologise whole-heartedly to both the supporters and staff of Ipswich Town and also my family. Gordon Taylor, chief executive

of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "It is only when the player is unwilling to help himself that punitive action is considered and taken against first-time offenders. Although there is a desire to help players, there is a grading of penalties and these crease when the drug in question

is performance-enhancing."

Jay Notley, of Charlton Athletic, is the only other player known to have tested positive this season from more than 300 samples.

Ferguson keeps watchful eye on Wimbledon's progress

MANCHESTER United go to Tot-tenham Hotspur tomorrow with Alex Ferguson, their manager, proclaiming that the title race is at last properly under way (Peter Ball writes). At Maine Road, Manchester City are virtually starting their season all over again as they go into their first game of the new year, this time under Frank Clark.

"The race is on," Ferguson said. We're not at the ticklish stage yet, where everything is magnified, but it is an interesting league. You can't take anything for granted — you have to perform well in all games to get the consistency to keep in

At the moment, there are half a dozen teams jostling in the leading pack. Ferguson believes that will come down to three or four, possibly including Wimbledon, who impressed him greatly with their away win against Bolton Wanderers in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday.
"They've got two games in hand,

and if they win those they go top," Ferguson said, "I think the key for

them will be if they stay clear of injuries. They are well-coached, well organised, and they are light years away from the image they had a few years ago. They are still very competitive, but they don't have that belligerent attitude to-wards officialdom and opponents

they used to have." Most sides will still fear United, providing they stay in touch until the "ticklish" stage arrives. "The experience we've had over the last three years must help us." Fergu-

son said. Tottenham, though, may provide a tough test tomorrow, with United troubled by injuries, particularly in defence. If Pallister is fit, and Irwin is not, Ferguson will consider playing three at the back, not a formation that United have adopt-

ed with much success. While United contemplate challenging for their third title in four years - and their third double in four years - City are facing a battle against relegation as they meet Crystal Palace today. It will be Clark's first match in charge, two

gap heightening the feeling of a

new beginning.
"Yes, except we've only got 22 games left," Clark said. "I'd be quite happy if we could start again, scrapping the previous 24 games. Time is a concern. There is not a lot left and we're not in a good position."

Clark is used to inheriting clubs in a poor position, although he feels that turning City round is likely to be a harder task than he faced on arrival at Nottingham Forest.

Ironically, in the week that Kevin Keegan left Newcastle United, City begin under Clark in much the same position as Newcastle were when Keegan arrived, and with much the same weight of expectation.

Blackburn Rovers will reject a transfer request from their goal-keeper, Shay Given. "He'll go in the summer," Tony Parkes, the acting manager, said, "but he's got to stay until then. We have got to have two top-class goalkeepers."

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RUGBY UNION 48

Richmond add South African to growing foreign legion

CRICKET 48 Cork returns to action as rain restricts England



SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1997

Defeat of Ivanisevic carries Briton to second successive final and into leading 20

Henman strides on towards the top

By DAVID MILLER

TIM HENMAN'S march to a place in the world's top 20 came at the expense of Goran Ivanisevic the world No 3. who critically missed an open backhand at the net when in a winning position in their semifinal of the Sydney International yesterday.

Yet if it was an error that allowed Henman to advance to his second ATP final in consecutive weeks, it must be stressed that his victory bristled with a steadily mounting self-assurance.

The temperamental Croatian is the highest-ranked player to be defeated by the upwardly mobile Henman. who was scheduled to meet the unseeded Carlos Moya, of Spain, in the final in the early hours of this morning. He beat Ivanisevic 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 thanks to a blistering tie-break performance in the second set,

week after reaching his first ATP final in Qatar last weekend, will become the first British player in the top 20 since Buster Mottram was ranked No 15 in 1983. His eight match wins are more than any other ATP player this year and his victory in Sydney was marked by outstanding tactical sense against the powerful Ivanisevic. There were times when Henman's service

was the more formidable. Here was no tyro up against the big shot. These were two players meeting on level terms, the measure of Henman's improvement since he began last year at a lowly world No 99. No player on the circuit can now confront him with equanimity for his game is acquiring an impressive allround quality. Yet there is no denying the element of good fortune that he enjoyed in the middle of the second set.

Ivanisevic had taken the

tached and almost casual as Ivanisevic served out for 6-4, Henman hitting loose ground shots wide on either flank.

Suddenly, though, the flow the game switched as Henman now found a higher gear. With Ivanisevic serving at 1-0 down in the second set. Henman pulled him back to deuce from 40-15 and struck a fine return for advantage.

On the next point, his deep cross-court backhand seemed to fall just wide, but was not called: 2-0. In a fury, Ivanisevic, who has yet to justify his talent by winning a grand-slam event smashed his racket into pieces on the hard court then kicked it away. He was duly warned.

Henman served to 3-0, but

Ivanisevic, recomposed, recovered to make it 3-3 and then 4-4. In the next game, Henman, trailing 40-15 on his service, hit a short ball to Ivanisevic's backhand. With a choice of passing Henman on

for the match, Ivanisevic put the ball in the net.

At 5-5. Henman was again 40-15 down on his service and then advantage down. Yet. with that steadiness that has become his hallmark, he survived the crisis and forced a ne-break.

In this he raced to 5-1, winning points against service with a glorious deep forehand and a backhand cross-court pass. A dejected Ivanisevic double-faulted for 6-1 and Henman served out to level the match.

The final set was hardly a ntest. Ivanisevic's concentration evaporating as that drowning spaniel look envel-

Henman is the first Briton to reach the Sydney final, formerly the New South Wales Open, since Fred Perry lost to Jack Crawford in 1934. The only British winner was Wilburforce Vaughan-Eaves in 1902.

"I don't know what he was up to, and I was aware he was getting frustrated," Henman said. But I couldn't waste time concentrating on him. You've got to think about what

Focus, the vogue word nowadays, is one of Henman's several strengths. "There will be times in 1997 when I'll lose and my ranking will drop," he said. "But, as Pete Sampras says, 'it is not where you are ranked in March and April that counts, it's where you stand in December"."

The partnership with David Felgate, his coach, who is now working with him full-time, is producing obvious dividends. though Henman remains well aware that there is much still to accomplish, not least the advice from Boris Becker during the Grand Slam Cup in the net more often.

Yesterday, though, he was trying to concentrate his efforts on winning his first

"It is easy to let your focus switch to the grand-slam event," he said, "but I am trying to keep my head screwed on, to play one match at a time. I am looking forward to playing in Mel-bourne, but for the moment I am here in Sydney."



Henman puts maximum effort into a backhand drive during his victory over Ivanisevic yesterday

Liverpool decline offers for unsettled Redknapp

Ivanisevic comes a cropper during his semi-final defeat by Henman in Sydney

By David Maddock

he will soon become a first-

There have, he said, been

offers, but Redknapp is seen

as integral to the future of the

club. "Roma made inquiries

and other clubs have made

contact but there is no way we

are at all interested," Evans

said. "We have made it clear

that he is not for sale. Jamie is

only a young player and a full

international. We will not let

Evans hinted that

players of that quality leave."

team regular again.

Watchful Ferguson ...

Rob Hughes .

LIVERPOOL confirmed last night that they have had offers from two different clubs for Jamie Redknapp, their unsettled England international. They will not, however, entertain a transfer despite the Redknapp recently, attempted to put the record straight prospect of a fee in the region of £5 million. yesterday by suggesting that

Redknapp has started only four first-team games this season and has recently become depressed with his Anfield prospects. Regular relegation to the bench, he said. has inhibited his England prospects. Worse, an injury that has ruled him out for the past three weeks has frustrated him even further.

Before an ankle injury forced him into the treatment room, he advanced the nution of a loan period, both to recover match fitness and get away from the Liverpool supporters, who gave him an unkind reception in his last full match.

Redknapp will not be allowed to leave, even though

Roma. Fiorentina and Totten-Redknapp will soon get his chance when he has recovered ham Hotspur have all made persistent inquiries. Roy Evfrom the niggling injury, probans, the Liverpool manager, ably against Aston Villa next exasperated with the specula-Saturday. tion that has built up around "Michael Thomas is sus-

pended after this weekend and so Jamie will get a chance if he is fit. When he gets back in, if he gets a couple of decent games under his belt, he might never get out of the side again. He could be back for good," Evans said.

"I appreciate he wants to play football and he will get it if he is patient. He has never asked for a move and he will not be leaving because he is a quality player. He will get back into the side soon

Evans is concerned to settle a Liverpool side that has had several disappointing results recently. "We have got to be positive." he said. "We are still top of the Premiership and somebody has to take this league by the scruff of the neck

Dalglish slips quietly back into Newcastle reckoning

By DAVID MADDOCK

that he had to decline New-

"It's an honour and very

flattering that a club like Newcastle should make me an

offer." Robson said. "They're a

phenomenal club and very

assionate about football. It is

highly tempting and a won-

derful opportunity to return to

the place where I come from,

but I can only be in one place

at one time - it's the right job

If there was a hint of regret

in Robson's tone, then that

was repeated by John

Toshack, another British man-

ager plying his trade in Spain.

There were further claims

yesterday that the Welshman

at the wrong time."

castle's offer.

RUMOUR. speculation, confusion ... just another day in the life of Newcastle United Football Club post-Kevin Keegan. A club of its size that is searching for a manager will always invite intense in-terest. Yesterday, it bordered son indicated that he had been given greater scope in his role on hysteria. Claim and counter-claim as coach. This, he said, meant

surrounded the quest for a successor to Keegan. The reality, though, was summed up in one sentence from Bobby Robson, the man on whom Newcastle's search briefly seemed to centre. "Right job, wrong time," he said, after a day in which it was reported that Newcastle returned with a second offer to tempt him back to his native North East. Sir John Hall, the New-

castle chairman, was said to have flown to Spain to seek further talks with the former England manager. Robson. though, spent most of the day in meetings with his Barcelona president, José Luis Nuñez. Robson is contracted to Barcelona for two seasons and was now Newcastle's prime yesterday he was attempting target, but he, too, explained to clarify his position. It seems that, should Newcastle make an offer, it would come at the that Nunez satisfied Robson that his future lay with a club wrong time. regarded as among the big-gest in Europe. Indeed, Rob-

"I'm flattered to be linked with such a job as that at Newcastle, but I must honour my contract with Deportive La Coruna), and unless things change then that means must remain until it expires at the end of this season. Anyway. I have heard nothing," Toshack said.

The third candidate on the lewcastle shortlist is Kenny Dalglish, and the silence from him is perhaps far more significant than the sound of rejection from Spain. There are few managers in England equipped to follow the charismatic Keegan, and Dalglish is one of them. Most important of all, he actually wants the job. He has confided to close friends that it would be an ideal return to football for him. Publicly, though, he was

as tight-lipped as ever.

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Elements of surprise leave a cloud over sports schedule

BY RESSELL KEMPSON

"CYCLONE stops play notices went up in New Plymouth yesterday, at the height of the Antipodean summer. halting England's cricket match against a New Zealand Academy XI. Too much snow in Rad Kleinkirchheim. Austria. forced the women's World Cup downhill skiing to be cancelled, and in Chamonix, France, final practice for the men's downhill was slopped because of poor visibility. Has the world's weather gone mad?

In England, at least, the outlook remained predictable. Football again bore the brunt of the big freeze, with IS first-class fixtures, including 12 in the Nationwide League, falling victim to the Arctic conditions. Rugby union lost Sale's match against Saracens, in the Courage Clubs Championship first division, while the horse racing meetings at Asent and Warwick were also ruled non-starters.

The Academy XI had concluded its innings on 201 in the one-day match before torrential rain washed

out the rest of proceedings. Drena. unwelcome as she was unscasonal. also forced the abandonment of the quarter-finals of the New Zealand open tennis tournament in Auckland. Jan-Michael Gambill, of the United States, led Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, by two games to one when they had to flee for cover.

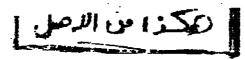
It was had, too, in Bad Kleinkirchheim. A heavy overnight snowfall had made the piste awkward and dense fog only added to the degree of difficulty facing the women downhillers. After the first

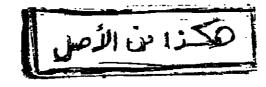
seven skiers had descended into the darkness, the race had to be abandoned. "The safety of the girls is paramount." Hans Pumm, the Austria coach, said. "It was impossible.

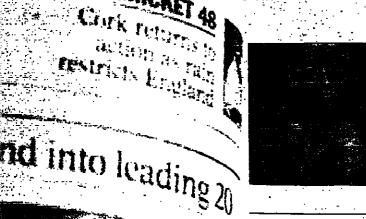
The men could see little in Chamonix, either. Even though the weather was fair and the temperature well above freezing, a thick mist quickly enveloped the upper part of the course at the French Alpine resort. It did not please Alberto Tomba, of Italy, the temperamental world and Olympic champion.

He is scheduled to race in the statom race tomorrow, but a spokesman for him said yesterday: "He will travel here and deckle on the spot whether to start or give up." What a trooper. The international rugby union

match in Cardiff today appears to be unaffected, with the undersoil heating at the Arms Park paving the way for Wales to take on United States. Barring a hurricane, peasouper, fire, brimstone or a plague of frogs overnight, the game should







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Weeklend

Four-page special on the joys of Spain



SATURDAY JANUARY II 1997

Why Anne will live for ever

On Monday The Times begins the serialisation of the unexpurgated edition of The Diary of a Young Girl.



Today Julia Neuberger celebrates the lasting appeal of Anne Frank's thoroughly modern voice

his month sees the publication of a new edition of Anne Frank's diary, 50 years after it first came out. The very freshness, the depth of feeling and the lack of sentimentality of this new, much longer diary make it clear why Anne Frank should be regarded not only as a teenage girl with a precocious talent for a poignant memoir, but as a fine and substantial writer, who never reached her peak of expression because of her tragically short life.

The new material — about 30 per cent has been added, which Anne's father had edited out makes it instantly engaging to older, more jaded palates as well as remaining as enthralling as it always was for

younger readers. I first read the diary when I was about II. It had a particular resonance for me, because my mother had been a refugee from Nazi Germany, and had stronger a voice. This teenager got her younger-brother out of is by no means mealy mouthed, Germany when he was only 13. or saintly. She could have been My father's mother, Anna one of us, surprisingly modern Schwab, had also been deeply and surprisingly honest as she involved in refugee rescue work was. Although my response in before the war. So I grew up surrounded by the German accents of refugees who had come to this country, including

members of my family. Anne Frank's original diary was not only fascinating and moving, it was also my history, my story. I could have been in her situation if I had been born at a different time, and many of

my relatives suffered her fate. So I might have been thought to have particular reasons to respond to the diary, except that I was not alone in reading and re-reading it in my early teen-

Many of my friends did the same, and most did not share my family's history. It was, instead, that we could recognise the authentic voice of a young teenager. We had responded to Anne's grumpiness as much as to her tragedy. We had imagined ourselves in hiding, but we had also heard her musings on friends at school before she left. We knew that she was writing out of experience.

Reading this new version, with all its additions which Otto Frank had removed for reasons of modesty and respect for the memories of the dead, makes that authenticity, that voice of experience, all the middle age is not what it was as a young girl, because I know both from reading and from conversation about so many more people's personal experiences of the Holocaust, Anne Frank's diary still has a magic for me. It still has a freshness. and a bite - and a power to

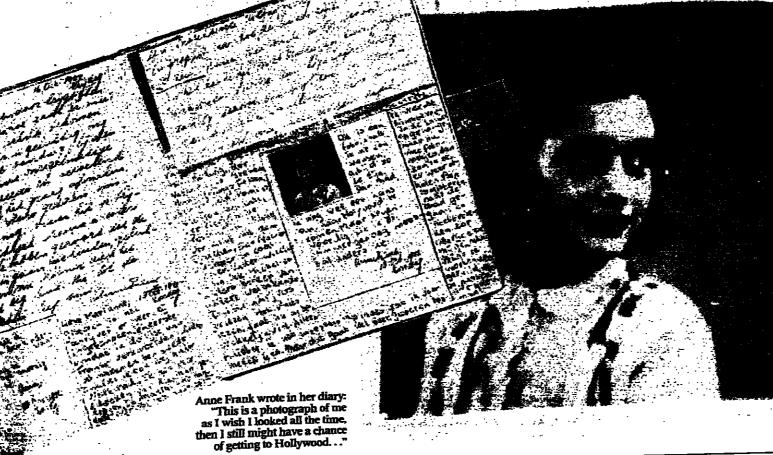
Continued on page 2













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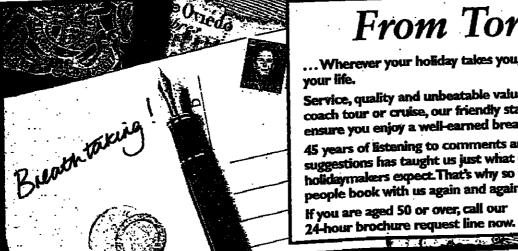
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ermyn Street runs through the heart of the oak-panelled world between Piccadilly and Pall Mall. Before London became cool and slavish to the Armanis and Versaces, it was the only place for a man to shop.

Snaking between Regent Street and St James', it is lined with heavy initials and big-game names: Harvie and Hudson, New and Lingwood, T.M. Lewin, Turnbull and Asser. They speak of strong men in soft shirts, horny toes in cashmere socks, the iron representatives of Empire in fine wool suitings. This is where Bertie Wooster would have come to research his one venture into journalism: "What the Well-Dressed Man is Wearing", a piece for his Aunt Dahlia's paper, Milady's Boudoir.

Little has changed since then, and least of all that uniquely British creature, the Gentleman's Outlitter.

Gentleman's Outfitters are the angostura bitters in the pink gin of menswear. Though they all have soft, white hands and that creepy, "I must say, Sir looks very good in stripes" attitude, they break down into essentially three different types: the camp and friendly, the camp and haughty, and the honest artisan. They can now be found in shire stores across the country, but Jermyn Street is to them as Lord's is to the cricketer.

The camp and friendly type I came across, when taken to buy my first sports jacket. My father, who had been reared on the Lincolnshire fens, thought I needed something hairy. "Ooh, something hairy, eh?" said the excited salesman, a combination of lan McCaskill and John Inman. When my father asked whether tailors

SERIOUS SHOPPING

GENTLEMAN'S OUTFITTERS

still wanted to know which side a man dressed, the assistant nearly fainted with pleasure.

The camp and haughty type appears in Alan Bennett's play An Englishman Abroad. When Coral Browne, the Australian actress. goes shopping for Guy Burgess, the spy, one shop assistant refuses to sell pyjamas for a notorious homosexual and traitor. When Browne calls him a stuck-up English prig, the assistant puffs out his chest and replies, "Madam. we are a Polish firm."

The last sort is the beetling, diminutive artisan, obviously more at home in a workshop than front of house. Dressed only in black and white, they love the sepulchral labyrinths of shoe lasts



BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

which stretch out behind their shops like bank vaults. For them the shop is a confessional where no questions are asked and nothing is passed on. Whereas he does every-

thing else with an arrogant sense of tradition, the Gentleman's Outfitter still has not got the hang of sales. For him, a sale is an admittance of failure; nothing to be happy about. He puts a diminutive sign up in his window then stands behind his counter looking as though he has just snagged his longjohns.

Twice a year, in the new year and late summer, the Jermyn Street G.O. must deal with tourists intrigued by the Olde England style of his shop, and club bores. who hover shiftily around the discount shirts in their tight-fitting overcoats, their cheeks red from

While their richer friends head for the country for the weekends.

these men are the poor relations who are left to paw the ground outside their clubs, itching for Monday when they reopen and the warm greeting of doorman, bar-man and old fives partners.

Their lives peaked sometime during a Colts cricket match, aged 15, and they have been grasping ever since for those faint whilfs of matron, linoleum and wellstarched shirts.

The Jermyn Street sales provide them with this as well as a handsome, hard-wearing suit for as little as £200. Well cut, plain or striped, it will look better and last longer than anything from the noisier outlets on Bond Street.

At Harvie and Hudson, for example, a covert coat, ideal for the races, goes for only £325, a bargain when you compare an equivalent designer number. In New and Lingwood, which straddles the

Piccadilly Arcade, a silk dressing gown is £300 down from £400. All you need is the cigarette holder. marrons glaces, a line in fruity put-downs and bang. Noël Coward. Cashmere socks, city shirts, ties and pyjamas are all down at prices not just reserved for the Duke of Norfolk.

Inside all these shops, however. the outfitters have the hang-dog looks of those gloomy Russian poets condemned to work the salt mines. Thankfully for them, in a couple of weeks the sale signs will disappear, and the usual flanelly fug will envelop the place once

Then they can return to behav-ing like butlers in stately homes. simultaneously superior and grovelling and probably still living with their mothers.

■ Giles Coren is away

Anything else iust won't wash

THERE IS every excuse to do your dirty washing in public with the latest laundry baskets in materials and styles to suit every taste, from retro plastics and traditional wicker to eco-friendly recycled paper. Sudi Pigott sorts through a bevy of baskets that make a style statement.



ABOVE: Inflatable plastic laundry bin available in luminous orange, yellow or blue, 529, from the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)

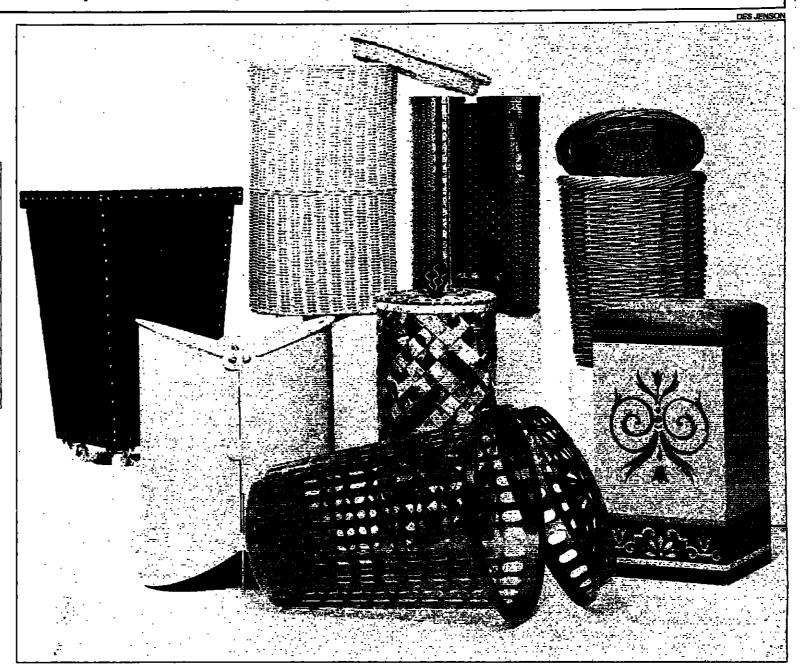
1 Black or red resin-board "mobile" laundry basket on castors, £59, from Aero, 96 Westbourne Grove, London W2 (0171-221 1950) 2 Balsa peeled rattan laundry bin, £55, from Habitat, available from the end of February (0643 334433)

3 Perforated design chrome laundry bin, available in two sizes, 35cm (£75) and 40cm (£97), from Purvis & Purvis (0171-580 8223) 4 Capacious traditional natural woven willow laundry basket, £27.95, from McCord Design (mail order, 0990 535455) 5 Handpainted linen-covered laundry basket with padded seat-lid

decorated with icanthus leaves in muted classical shades of cream,

blue and bronze, £260, from Renwick & Clarke, 190 Ebury Street, London SW1 (0171-730 8913) 6 Holey 1950s-style bin in translucent plain red, blue or lilac plast £12.99, from Brats, 281 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-351 7674) 7 Handwoven patchwork multicoloured laundry basket made of recycled card, designed by Lois Walpole, £125 plus £4.50 p&p

(mail order, 0171-538 5308) 8 Eclipse birch plywood laundry bin with two sections to separate whites and coloureds. Each section is also the size of a standard washing machine so you know when it's time to do a wash. It costs £95 from Ocean (mail order, 0800 132985)



'Her father began to disapprove of all that necking'

Continued from page I move through the sheer quali-

absence of sentimentality. Anne Frank's story is well known. She wrote her diary from her thirteenth birthday until forced to stop when the hiding place in which they had been safe for about two years was raided by the SS on August 4, 1944. The eight people hiding in the Annexe to 203 Prinsengracht, Amsterdam, were taken prisoner. along with two of their

he eight people were Anne: her older sister Margot: her parents Otto and Edith: another family, the Van Pels from Osnabrűck in Germany tealled the Van Daan family by Anne Frank); and, lastly, the latecomer Fritz Pfeffer, the dentist called Albert Dussel in the diary, also originally from Germany.

Anne observed them closely. and her strictures on Dussel make for hilarious reading. adoring children but, in fact, did little but criticise all three young people - and hog the one and only lavatory for large parts of the day.

In a less than kind moment and one can see why her fellow residents in the Annexe did not always think Anne was kind - she wrote a timetable for Dussel's use of the lavatory:

"Dussel now sits on the 'hog', to borrow the expres-

sion, every day at twelve thirty on the dot," it begins. It is the like, that would produce as

many teenage giggles today. Anne records her father's falling out with Dussel because of an insult. "Not one of us knows what he said, but it must have been pretty awful," Anne wrote.

greater and, in fact, they must have been betrayed. One is left wondering how much Dussel was to blame for insisting on having fresh air.

to Westerbork, the transit camp in the north of Holland, from which they were deported on September 3, in the last transport to leave before the war ended.

hiding, and he later devoted himself to publishing his peared in 1947.

has been treasured by million. But its authenticity has frequently been challenged, and Otto Frank and the Nether-

The risks were growing

The Jews were transported

Three days later, they arrived at Auschwitz in Poland. Margot and Anne were transported from Auschwitz at the end of October to Bergen-Belsen, where conditions were appalling. A typhus epidemic killed Margot and Anne in late February or early March 1945. Bergen-Belsen was liberated by British troops on April 12, 1945.

Anne's father, Otto, was the only one to survive the camps. of the eight who had been in daughter's diary, which ap-

The Diary of a Young Girl

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Happy and smiling. Anne Frank (third from right) walking with her family in 1940

now, frankly and unsentimentally. In 1947, open discus-

sion of sexuality was regarded

lands State Institute for War Documentation, to whom Frank willed Anne's manuscripts, plus the Anne Frank Foundation which inherited the copyrights, have frequent-ly been called to defend it.

As a result, a critical edition was published some years ago, after a series of court cases confirmed its authenticity. That critical edition contains this new material; most readers will have read only the shorter version, published soon after the war.

That volume has enthralled young readers particularly, who have identified with the young girl describing her experiences during the war in occupied Holland. Its freshness of tone, its vivid depiction of the horrors of being in hiding, its matter-of-fact acceptance of the horrors befalling the Jews of Europe, and its daily reflections on many of the less than endearing habits of the residents of the Annexe. have always been captivating. But the decision to publish this unabridged version of the diary to the wider public throws a new light on Anne Frank and her writing, which I read and re-read as a girl. As with Jane Eyre, when Charlotte Brontë wrote about Lowood School. Anne's diary as shameful, and Otto Frank. altogether understandably, omitted the passages. tells a story that is true, mem-

memoir of a young girl's fate at the hands of the Nazis. ncluded in the new version are things that Otto Frank, for a variety of reasons, had omitted from the original version. Here we have Anne discussing her sexuality in a way unexpected in a 13-year-old even

orable, important and strong-But for us modern readers. ly personalised. It is a modern

Anne on the subject of her body, particularly her sexual organs, her periods, her feelclassic, not just the moving ings for Peter, a young man of nearly 16 when they were first in hiding, her sense of frustration and her attitudes to paternal disapproval, all add up to a thoroughly modern look at a young girl's world, all the more remarkable because of her enforced limited

horizons: "I've told you more about myself and my feelings than I've ever told a living soul, so

STARTING ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

THE SECRET LIFE OF ANNE FRANK

Exclusive extracts from the new edition of Anne Frank's diary, including the candid entries censored until now

why shouldn't that include tenderness and gratitude. Ev- century mind. Had she lived. sex?" she writes.

worse for the young couple, because they were in hiding: they had nowhere to go to be

Then Anne writes

about her grow-

Peter, there is terrific excitement, but also the familiar embarrassment that any teenager would recognise. Sometimes he comes down to get me, but that's awkward too, because in spite of all his precautions his face turns bright red and he can hardly

get the words out of his mouth... Mother has virtually forbidden me to go up to Peter's, since, according to her, Mrs

van Daan is jealous... "Do you think Father and Mother would approve of a girl of my age sitting on a divan and kissing a seventeenand-a-half year old boy? I doubt they would, but I have to trust my own judgment in this matter. It's so peaceful and...

That was on April 17, 1944. By August, they were in a ncentration camp. She never had the chance to grow up completely, to have the sexual experiences she imagined, even to explore further with the gentle Peter, after her father began to disapprove of all that necking.

But it is not only her reflections on sex and sexuality that so grip the modern reader. Another whole area that Otto Frank omitted was the material about the other residents of the Annexe, and particularly the unflattering passages about his wife, who died in Auschwitz in early 1945. Anne's relationship with her mother was far from good, and indeed typical of strained relationships between mother and teenage daughter in many

The very honesty of its description must have been hard for Otto Frank to take postwar, grieving both for his wife and daughters, and knowing their terrible fate.

The decision to publish now, when almost everyone involved is dead, except for the last of the helpers. Miep Santrouschitz Gies, is the right one. No one can now be hurt by what is contained in Anne's private diary. Miep knew of it anyway, and is described with

eryone else is only a memory, she would now be 67. One can Anne herself. Yet from this

version we get a new picture. It is an utterly modern work; it allows us to see how a vivid imagination, a firm style, and a gritty determination added up to a burgeoning young writer of skill, with a

sharp, inquiring, late 20th-

be a distinguished writer or journalist, with a sympathetic ear for the young.

Her one work makes it clear that she should have had a glittering career. This was taken from her, but what she makes compelling reading.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Anne Frank evening with Janet Suzman, Terry Waite

and Joely Richardson TO CELEBRATE the publication of the definitive edition of Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl. readers of The

Times are invited to an evening of readings and discussion on Wednesday, February 5, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WCl at 7.30pm. Janet Suzman, Joely Richardson and Terry Waite will read from this unabridged edition of the diary, and Buddy Elias, Anne's only surviving cousin, will discuss the enduring appeal of the diary and his memories of Anne. There will also be excerpts from Jon Blair's Oscar-

winning documentary Anne Frank Remembered, and an

opportunity for the audience to question the panel. ■ Tickets for the forum at £10 (concessions for OAPs. students and the unemployed at £7.50 on production of appropriate identification), which includes £2 off the price of The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank, the Definitive Edition (Viking, £16), are available by phoning 0171-467 1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WCIE 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought in person. A percentage of the ticket price will be donated to the Anne Frank Educational Trust.

THE TIMES/DILLONS ANNE FRANK FORUM

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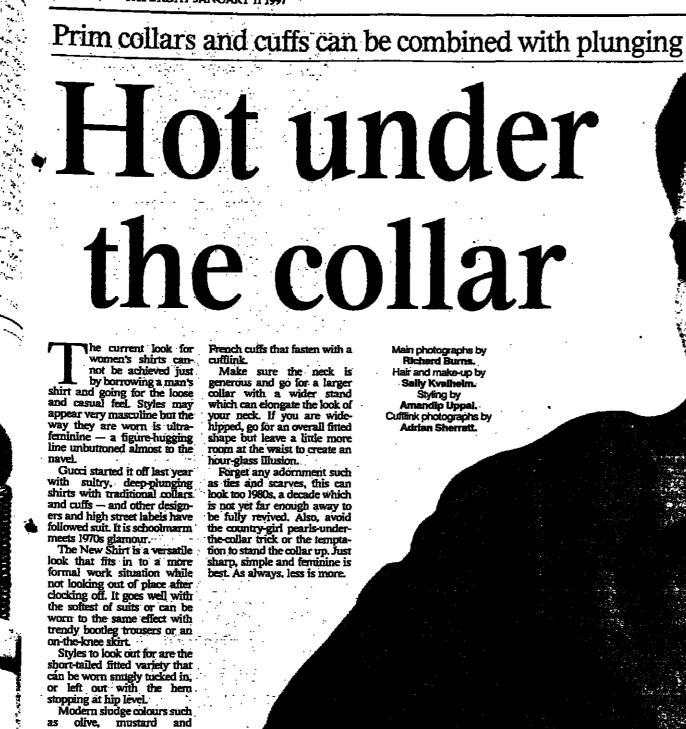
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حكفا من الأصل

necklines, says Heath Brown



stripes in all combinations are good too (see the example shown below from Pauline A white shirt is a safe bet and can be jazzed up with interesting cufflinks. Here women can be more adventurous than men and go for outrageous choices. A good selection of unusual and beautiful cufflinks can be found at Paul Smith (as shown below). T.M. Lewin of Jermyn Street, WI, and branches of Liberty.

est buys in shirts range from designer selections at Gucci, Cerruti and Salvatore Ferragamo to good high street examples from Jigsaw, Oasis, Warehouse and Marks & Spencer (shown right).

The ultimate of course is the made to measure bespoke shirt at prices from around £80 to £130. Look up shirtmakers in your local telephone directory Fabric choice is yours (you can even take along your own) but make sure you pick a good cotton poplin, a strong silk or a smooth broad-cloth and choose your buttons well. Poor quality fastenings can spoil a garment. For added effect, ask for double

aubergine can be introduced to the workplace quite successfully in this style of shirt, and

ABOVE: Pink and blue striped shirt, £42.50, Thomas Pink, 85 Jermyn Street, SW1 and branches (0171-498 2202). Blue flat-front trousers, £83, Armand Basi, 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-278 4843). Black sandals, £44.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-631 0224)

LEFT: Slue shirt, £30, Marks & Spencer, 458 Oxford Street, W1 and selected branches nationwide (0171-935 4422)



Pink cluster with silver mesh cufflinks, £45, available from Paul Smith, 41-43 Floral Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7133) and from Harrods. Knightsbridge, SW1



Purple cufflinks, £18, available from Marks & Spencer, 458 Oxford Street London W1 and at selected branches (0171-935 4422)



Square silver cutflinks

with black stone, £45, available from Paul

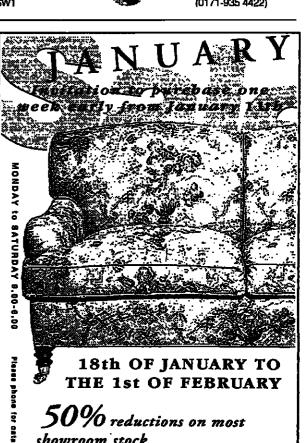
Smith, 41-43 Floral

Street, London WC2

(0171-379 7133) and

Green striped shirt, £140, Pauline Burrows, made to order (0181-694 9373); Square, 3-4 The Corridor, Bath; Matches, 38 High Street, Wimbledon; Corniche, 2 Jeffery Street, Edinburgh. Oatmeal tweed skirt, £45, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Sreet, W1 and branches nationwide (0171-491 4484)





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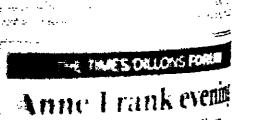
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at necking

Having the thyme of her life

Jekka McVicar doesn't let the cold interfere with her herb farm, says

Jane Owen

ven in winter, Jekka McVicar has a smorgas-bord of growing herbs: fennel. sweet marjoram, pineapple mint (with its creamy, whiteedged leaves which go well in a fruit salad), English mace (for turkey and game), pungent, oily basil mint (for salad dressing), camphor thyme (for game), and the delicate, tiny, evergreen leaves of salad burnet with their startling cucumber flavour. That's on top of the regulars which are a part of any herb fan's menu: 40 varieties of thyme, some bay, some rosemary and lavender.

Ms McVicar started to grow herbs 20 years ago at her home near Bristol while working as a flautist in a rock band, Marsupilanti. After marrying Mac, a space engineer, and the arrival of two children she began to farm herbs commercially and is erecting a three-section polytunnel to add to the three existing polytunnels she has on a windy two acre sight at

Alveston, north of Bristol. Her passion for herbs is infectious. As Ms McVicar walks through each polytunnel caressing the plants, their perfumes are released into the air lemon. musk, rose, eucalyptus, honey and camphor. Fennel plants, which were sown last August, are 8in high and wave their delicate foliage at the snow outside. Lemon balm, too, thrives through the winter. It needs to be cut to ground level as soon as it gets tall and straggly, and then its low-lying dome of pale green leaves will survive the cold.

Scents given off are not all charming: some. like a mint recently sent in by a customer, can smell of urine. Ms McVicar suggests eating a mint leaf at the onset of migraine.

Most of the herbs grow happily in unheated tunnels, or even outside. The pineapple mint survives outside, albeit slightly blackened. But one tunnel, containing show plants, is kept at about 38F. Pompoms of bay. specimen plants of rosemary and lavender, a couple of olive trees, and low-clipped hedges of box and curry plants are being crimped and preened ready for future exhibitions by the Royal Horticultural Society or for this year's Chelsea Flower Show. where they will help to create a base for instant gardens. Last year, at the



Jekka McVicar in one of the cold polytunnels she uses to grow herbs throughout the year. Exhibition plants are grown in a heated tunnel

RHS Christmas show. Ms McVicar won a gold medal, despite manning her stand dressed as a garden gnome. Gnomes are banned by the RHS.

Alongside the show exhibits in her heated tunnel, a rare white-flowered sage snuggles beside the shrub Eriocephalus africanus, whose clusters of small, white flowers appears only at this time of year. The silver foliage, which looks like a cross between lavender and rosemary, gives a hint of the desert with a whiff of eucalyptus.

Another plant with the near him of eucalyptus, and of sweetness and pines, is Balm of Gilead (Cedronella canariensis). It looks like a small rose

sucker and has a good scent. Ms McVicar says that sniffing the leaves can ward off flu and colds; if that fails, soak the leaves in a bowl of steaming water as an inhalation or make them into a tea.

hatever mood you are in herbs can make you feel good, Ms McVicar says. went into herbs I've always been passionate about them, like cooking, and on the whole you can stick to English when talking about them."

Although she does not use chemicals she cannot claim the official organic accreditation because, when

plants are ready to be sent to garden centres or by mail order, she gives them a dose of slow-release fertiliser. In Germany this system is accepted.

Ms McVicar is irrepressible in whatever she does, and so are her husband and children, which is handy because the herb farm has been a struggle. Setting it up meant the family living in a makeshift hut for two years while the children were barely three and four years old. Now, the children's room in the hut is used as the label store and the parents' bedroom as a mail-order seed storing room. The family has now moved into a once-derelict cottage which

Rhus typhina will sometimes, but not always, produce excellent, fiery autumn colour. The

or large shrub, and usually meets its end by getting too large for its shallow roots. It suckers a lot. The more you damage its roots by gardening under it, the more suckers are produced. Either out down the suckers in your garden and treat the fresh stumps with RootOut, or remove the invading root as far as the fence. I doubt if RootOut, applied to suckers here, would damage your neighbour's trees. It would be interesting to know what case law says about damage to, and ownership of, a

but does not open many flowers. It gets morning sun until noon. Should I move it to a sunnier border, or leave it and take cuttings? If so, how and when? - J. Mouraut, St Saviour, Jersey.

Oleanders need all the warmin they can get. If you wish to move it, do so in late

GARDEN ANSWERS



i planted a stag's horn sumach for auturin colour but, because it suckered badly and did not colour well, I cut it down. My neighbour now has a line of its suckers making trees ander his side of the fence, and more suckers keep creeping back to my side. My neighbour is happy to have his trees, but how do I deal with the suckers on my side? — Miss M. Doe, Herne Bay, Kent.

female plant is said to be better than the male for colour. It makes a small tree plant coming from your neighbour's garden, but which began life in yours.

My 4fetali outdoor oleander is ten years

A You are right to look for a sunner position.

February or early March. with a big rootball of soil attached. Cuttings are made in June or July, under plastic, from 3in-4in halfripe shoots, inserted in a shaded compost.

Q Electricity board workmen cut back beech, willow and cypress trees in my garden under power lines, and shredded the prunings down to a pile of mulch, which they said would be usable in six months. I have a new, 160vard leylandii hedge which I wish to mulch, but have been told by a neighbour that the mulch will be too acidic, because it has a conferous content. How soon could I use the muich. and is it suitable? J.W. Follows, Saffron Wal-

A purely coniferous A purely connerous mulch can be on the acid side, but yours is mixed. Even if it were on the acid side, it would not harm your leylandii. Newly shredded prunings are best left in a heap to heat up and decay before spreading. But, unless they are to be spread thickly, this is not vital. What is more important is to keep the mulch off the young trunks, and if the mulch is fine, to spread a layer thick enough to conserve soil moisture but not so thick as to resist rain penetration. Three inches is enough of a fine mulch, but coarser, less dense mulches, such as bark chips, can be spread more thickly.

• Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times. I Pennington St. andon El 9XN. We regret that U may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Tunes also

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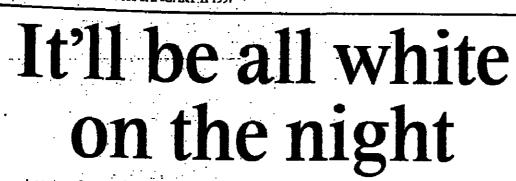
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Attractive, glistening patterns in a lawn covered in frost or snow can be planned. Stephen Anderton explains how you can create your own designs that will last all winter through

there is always a temptation to walk over a heavily frosted lawn to see the pattern made by footprints. But crushing frosted grass

leaves blackened prints for weeks. A far better way to achieve patterned grass in winter frost is to create the patterns earlier in the year with a lawnmower. It is a technique which is used not nearly enough. Different lengths of grass, all short, are established in

the lawn during the mowing season, in a formal or organic pattern to suit the garden and the gardener. The beauty of this is that the pattern remains throughout winter, giving a constant contrast of lines and textures. Like crisply cut topiary or hedges, lawns can sud-denly come to life when highlighted by a scattering or even a crust of the

A low winter sun can produce the same affect, making shadows across the lawn where one cutting regime gives way to another. Even bright moonlight will do the trick; on a bright, frosty night it is wonderful to see the sharpened geometry of a patterned lawn, glittering and still

The texture of the grass regimes is important, because different lengths of grass, be they half an inch, an inch, or two inches, all take on different aspects in frost or light snow. Longer, especially rotary-cut grass, allows a powdering of snow to fall between the stalks, leaving only a lightly coloured sward. Dense, close-mown lawn will make a platform for the snow, which will look distinctly whiter.

Castlebank Park, in Lanark, Scotland, has a patterned lawn which you might almost call minimalist turf sculpture. It sits on an old tennis court and was installed a few years ago by the designer Graeme Moore. Now, each spring, the park has an open day - with brass bands, children's games and gardening demonstrations - and a patterned lawn is mown for the

new season by Mr Moore. Grass patterns are simple to set up and need little attention. I had one for a couple of years and the

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children used it as a kind of giant snakes and ladders board. They had strong opinions about what form the pattern should take, according to how useful it was going to be for games.

You can start with any quality of lawn. Think about what the pattern is meant to achieve: to give direction to the lawn or lead the eve with a central "path" to a summerhouse? Will it be a concentric pattern focused on a central sundial? Or a direction-less sampler of shapes a network of circles, squares, triangles and rectangles?

In a garden with an open centre of lawn surrounded by beds, the design might be a circle of slightly longer grass, with finer turf at the edges where lawn meets border.

WEEKEND TIPS

Avoid walking on crocuses

To help wildlife survive, break open a small

discourage freezing.

area of frozen ponds, or

float a ball in the water to

■ Dress with lime areas

of the vegetable garden

so that the water, when

needed for pots, is not icy

Spray fruit trees with a

to kill overwintering eggs

Avoid walking on the

tar-oil wash in still weather,

foliage of autumn-flowering

crocuses emerging in turf.

watering cans or tanks full.

intended for brassicas.

■ Keep greenhouse

from the tap.

of insect pests.

With the pattern planned, the areas of short grass can be mown low when the growing season starts. The longer in-between pieces can be left for a week or so to grow and develop a contrast. Then, the technique is to mow the shorter grass first, followed by the longer grass (it is easier just to raise the beight of the machine and run over the whole lawn again). It makes sense in wet weather to

have the shorter grass in those places where you walk most. For the best contrasts, a cylinder mower is used on the short grass and a rotary on the long, both with

a grassbox. But if you have only one machine, either will do. To heighten the contrast, keep the short grass weedfree, and allow the longer areas to develop their

Half the fun of this technique is to change the patterns from time to time, so an even quality of turi gives you more flexibility.

lat lawns lend themselves 10 formality, but there is no reason why a sloping or rolling lawn should not be cut in a more organic manner to emphasise the land form. Even the usual striped effect of a cylinder mower can look wonderful when weaving with the contours of an

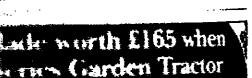
irregularly sloping lawn.

A word of warning, however, when planning a pattern: while you can always rub out mistakes with time and a lawnmower, sharply pointed shapes cannot be made in short grass. You can, however, sweep past promontories of long grass with a close-set mower to give sharp points of longer grass. Try, too, to base the width of any straight runs of short grass — the path network - on multiples of the width of the mower, it will look better and make the most efficient use of mowing time.

And remember that all areas of short grass must be continuous, unless you are prepared to lift the mower across areas of longer grass to get to islands of short. Chess boards are out, therefore, but spirals and Union Jacks are easy.

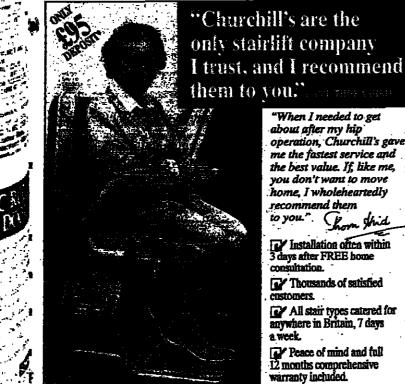


Graeme Moore and the patterned lawn he has created in Castlebank Park, Lanark. The park has a public open day in spring



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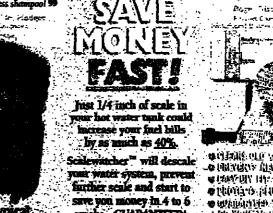
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Announcing: a great millennium architectural competition to lead the whole of Britain up the garden path

It is all very well for the world's leading architects to be planning temples of homage to the new millennium, but what about some edifice we can all enjoy, especially country dwellers? It is all very well turning the old Greenwich gasworks into the greatest thing since the Crystal Palace and flinging spidery bridges across the Thames, but there is not much in any of these grand projects for those of us who are stuck out here.

So I announce a competition for only the most imaginative architects: those brave enough to be associated with a truly revolutionary yet comfortingly retro project. But first, if you happen to be one of those designers who thinks that things built of glass have some kind of allure, be warned, for reasons which will become obvious: this is no project for those who deal in transparency.

It all started under the Christmas tree, with the gift of a new nightshirt. It is of the purest cotton, striped, as well cut as a Jermyn Street shirt and long enough to reach the ankles and exclude even the most penetrating breeze. "Very authen-

Privy to a nation's greatness

tic," my brother-in-law said as I held it chamberpot, but up. "Almost worth building an outside now that I was five lavatory to go with it."

He was, of course, quite right, A glib aside often gets to the truth of the matter far more swiftly than a considered argument. Those few words of his brought me face to face with what has been a great lack in my life: what I have been missing all these years is a privy.

Those of you who have used for perhaps still use) an outside lavatory will imagine that this is yet another flight of whirnsy. "He wouldn't want one if he'd tried one," you will cry. shivering in the Arctic blast. But I have used one. Admittedly the memory is blurred. because I was only five, but the horror of it sticks in the mind. It was at my great-aunt's cottage, where electricity had yet to reach and where running water came from a pump. On earlier visits my tender years had allowed me the use of the

I was reckoned old enough for "the

God, it was bleak out there: whitewash flaked from the wall, fungus grew like vegetation in a rainforest, the spiders arm-wrestled each other on the ceiling, and the only light came from the gap between the door and its

frame. This was just as well, because it prevented my impressionable gaze falling on what might be the other side of the hole. Moreover, there was no lavatory seat in the accepted sense - just a hole in

DOWN TO EARTH



a piece of wood and a galvanised bucket beneath. Plucking up all my courage, I glanced briefly, like a child in a house of horrors, hardly daring to open his tightly shut eyes. It looked dark and deep in there. Age brings a cer-tain wisdom and i

now see that, far

from being some form of punishment, the privy

could easily provide that temporary release we all seek from the pressure of everyday life. Would it not be fastidiously hygienic to distance these functions from the home in gypsy style and thus provide

a perfect place for peaceful reflection? Imagine it: a few moments in the morning when we could leave the house, flee those disgruntled voices on the Today programme and enjoy thoughts of our own. Instead of runing into the weather forecast, we would glance at the sky as we tripped down the garden path and feel, if you will excuse the expression. the direction of the wind on our cheeks. And no one to disturb us but spiders.

We need a privy for the new millenni-um. If global warming has the devastat-ing impact that is forecast, there will come a point when the flushing has to stop. You do not need a flush in a privy. just a shovel of earth. And disposal? Well, there is nothing better for a vegetable garden than properly composted waste. If the idea of spreading your residues on what you will eventually eat strikes you as disgusting, remember that at present

for lavatory paper. I suggest it will become scarce with a realisation that we cannot continue pulping the world's forests to produce something that feels soft and strong—but only for the briefest moment. Instead, we shall return to the nail behind the door with squares of newspaper threaded on a string. Broad-

sheets will, as usual, be better value. The time has come for architects to design us the privy of the future. There is no reason why it should be damp. draughty or smelly. Let us draw on the lessons we have learnt from the great

buildings of the world. It is a great challenge. If any draughts man thinks it might be beneath him, let me remind him that what I have in mind me remind him that what I have in mind is little more than a scaled-down Canary Wharf. In shape, anyway. Little boys have been old for generations to 'do their duty': it is now time for all those with the ability to go and do theirs. A flarpack version might be a good idea; I have this image in my mind of them being hought at DIY centres and taken home on the roof of Volvos. Go to it! No prize, on the roof of Volvos. Go to it! No prize, just the satisfaction of a grateful nation.



Local residents of Stedham, West Sussex, who are protesting at the proposed fencing of the common. Conservationists favour grazing by cattle and ponies as the best way of looking after the habitat. But livestock has to be fenced in

Middle England fights on common ground

how best to preserve the country's heath commons, says Jill Parkin

unlikely battle-ground. But across their heather and birchcovered acres the forces of conservation face ranks of dog walkers and ramblers. One side wants to fence the land and protect threatened species. The other wants the freedom

The country commons to wander as it has done for generations, without having to

look for gates "It would be extraordinarily

Conservationists are at loggerheads with dog walkers and ramblers over

irresponsible to bow to the pressures of locals, mostly dog walkers, on a site of international importance," says Robin Crane, chairman of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, now involved in a

animals - mainly cattle and ponies - have been returning to heath commons scattered throughout southern England. In the interests of biodiversity - the naturalists' H A S buzz word -- they are needed to keep the vegetation low and to prevent the heathland's return to woodland.

Commons were grazed until the last war. But then there was much less traffic. These days you cannot safely release stock to roam without fencing it in. And, whatever some conservationists claim about townie newcomers to the country who are frightened of meeting a cow, it is the fencing

were any doubt about the

Over the past few years

scientific value of grazing."

which really annoys. There's a prospect of every bit of common being fenced off banner," says Jane Hunt, who is leading the opposition to fencing and grazing plans for Iping and Stedham Commons near Midhurst, West Sussex. A keen dog walker, she works

row over commons in West as a reporter on the local Sussex. "It is not as if there paper. "The conservation paper. The conservation bandwagon has rolled on, gathering pace. It has developed into a culture of its own and the people who actually live in the country are beginning to say: There must be room for us. There has to be a balance between the needs of the community and the needs

of wildlife. "Man-management can achieve very nearly what graz-ing achieves. This headlong rush to protect beetles and moss is fine if a balance is maintained. But it looks as if we shall be faced with an ugly stockade punctuated with occasional gates. Something at-tractive will be lost and replaced with another bit of

agricultural land." Someone must speak up, though, for the beetles and the moss. And the lizards, adders, nightjars, hobbies, Dartford warblers, stonechats and woodlarks which live among the equally precious purple moorgrass, bell heather and sundews, plants which trap insects and digest them. Mr Crane is a member of



Silver-studded blue butterfly attended by friendly ants

the management committee of the Iping and Stedham local nature reserve, as well as chairman of the RSNC. He lives in Midhurst. In Denmark, Holland and Britain, 94.3 per cent of heathland has gone. That is the international scale of things. In West Sussex, 90 per cent of our heathland disappeared be-tween 1813 and 1981," he says. "We are losing a rich natural habitat which is full of species

that are not found anywhere else. Grazing by cattle and ponies is the best way of looking after this habitat. Man-management is secondbest. Maintaining wet heather by hand is practically impossi-ble. On top of all that, because the heather has not been grazed, fire is a real risk."

It is a particular risk for the heathland's most famous resident, the silver-studded blue butterfly. Deep in the bell heather, ants milk the caterpil-lar of the blue for a sugary fluid that is rich in amino acids. Then, in a weird way of saying thank you, they build a hideaway of chalk and other debris for the chrysalis, pro-tecting it from predators and parasites. They attend the emergent butterfly while its wings dry and until it flies off

Man-management is expen-sive. Doing it by hand removing young tree plants, controlling bracken and burning scrub and heather - on these two adjacent Sussex commons costs about £7,200 a year. Grazing is cheaper, even with the initial cost of fencing. The idea is to make the fencing disappear into the landscape as much as possible, taking advantage of shrubs and the lie of the land. There will be gates, and once walkers are on the common they will be free to wander as they do now. But it will look

English commons anyway are not what they once were the least fertile part of the medieval manors that were kent for the use of the commoners living around. Com-moners' rights were grazing. estovers (firewood), pannage (acorns), piscary (fish) and stone and gravel to repair their cottages. Now there are hardly any commoners, but there is a tradition of open land.

ccording to Mr Crane many objectors are won over Lonce the conservationists' bandwagon has parked on their patch. He quotes 26 examples of fencing and grazing, including Headley Heath in Surrey, Chudleigh in Devon and Bartley in Hampshire. "No injuries to people or dogs, he says, and an increase in visitors since grazing. The livestock becomes an attraction. Somewhere in between the naturalists and the country

dwellers are the politicians. No commons can be fenced and grazed without the permission of the Environment Secretary. Ownership is often complicated, management even more so. In our Sussex example. Stedham is owned by the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Iping is owned in three separate parcels by two grand estates and the West Sussex County Council. The two commons are managed by a combination of the Trust, the Council and the Sussex Downs Conservation Board.

They are falling out with each other. John Godfrey, deputy clerk to the Board, says: We are going for the traditional British compromise. It was trench warfare with the local people in the summer." The Board has made concessions to public opinion. The Trust is not pleased with its ally:

The idea of cattle grids has been dropped, the lending and grazing of lping have been put on hold, but the proposals for Stedham go ahead. The com-promise is scornfully dismissed by Mr Crane as "classic Yes, Minister". To the dog walkers of Stedham and Iping it is just not enough. Realings are running high in the commons of England.

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THIS IS smew time on the waters of the West. Smews are small duck from corthern Russia that appear in large numbers in the Netherlands in winter, congregating along the Rhine and on the lisselmeer. When the weather gets very cold, some of them cross the North Sea to Britain. turning up on unfrozen reser-

along the Thames valley. There are plenty around just now. Many of them are "redheads" — females and juvenile birds, which have a chestnut cap and gleaming white cheeks. But there are also some drakes about and they

voirs, and often on gravel pits

are a spectacular sight.

They have white heads with a black eye-patch and a thin black streak behind it. Their backs and wings are black. but as they float on the water mese parts are not conspicuous and the birds look almost snow white. Both sexes have a small crest which blows about in the wind.

The ducks belong to the sawbill family, which dive for fish and have a jagged edge along the inside of their beaks to hold their wriggling prey before swallowing it. Diving alongside them you may see goosanders, which are also sawbills, and at a distance look creamy white with bottlegreen heads for chestnut brown in the case of the

A third winter visitor which often completes the diving party is the goldeneye, a lively little duck — not a sawbill which often goes about in pairs. The drake goldeneye has a green head with a white. coin-shaped check-patch and the bright vellow eye that gives it its name.

When the smews take wing, it is a dramatic sight. They seem to jump off the water into the air, unlike many duck,

FEATHER REPORT



Smews are winter visitors to Britain from northern Russia

which go pattering along the water for a long way before they can get up into the air. On the wing smews are very agile, the small flocks swerving or dropping with expert co-ordi-

nation. In flight they look oddly long for such small

birds, because like the other

sawbills they hold their necks

very straight. Most other duck

dip their heads and necks

forward slightly as they fly. How fast-flying flocks of birds like smews co-ordinate their movements is a question that has received some study lately. It seems that changes of direction are generally initiated by a bird on the outside of a flock turning inwards. It may do that because it sees a collision coming up, for example, or because it has spotted a

its neighbours turn immediately too, and then their neighbours. The movement spreads like lightning through the whole flock, and off it goes

in a new direction. Some smews will stay in Britain until the end of winter. and start their spring displays before they leave. This is where their-crests come in The drakes swim towards their prospective mates, movtheir heads backwards

forwards, their crests

raised. But they hold their

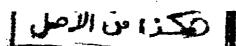
crests in a peculiar way, with two or three feathers standing up alone like a quill at the front of their skulls, and the

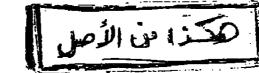
rest raised separately behind. The display evidently achieves its purpose, because they go back in pairs to sub-Arctic Finland and Russia to breed. There they make their nests in holes in trees by the lakes and rivers, and hatch large numbers of eggs before the high northern winter closes in and they seek the more hospitable waters of

western Europe again. DERWENT MAY

What's about Birders - take care What subout structs - tone not to disturb congregations of wild fowl and waders during the freezing weather. Twitchers -black throated thrush,

Hollingwood, Derbyshire; saow goose, Doking, Norfalk bufflehead, Hornsei Mere, East Yorkshire. Details from Birdline. cheap rate, 50p at other times.





Don't let your house catch a cold

Kerryn Brooker

offers a step-by-step guide to protecting your home against the perils of winter

WINTER has been far from kind this year. A series of unseasonally sharp and very cold bursts have underlined to householders the problems that can arise when your house is not fully equipped.

Knowing what needs to be done to prepare your house for the cold is not complicated and is more a matter of vigilance than high-tech. One of the main dangers to a house is water. In this way houses are a bit like human beings: if they get wet and stay wet they catch a cold - often an expensive one. According to both the British Wood and Damp Coursing Association and the Building Re search Establishment (BRE), the majority of dry rot problems are caused by an "ingress of water".

When the snow and ice have melted, take a quick trip around your home. Is the garden full of leaves? If so, examine the guttering that runs around the roof. This may be a tall order but do what you can. A section of your roof may be within view from an upstairs room, so take a look from there. If it is within safe reach of an opened window, invest in a set of drain rods and a "jointed scraper attachment (about E30) from any plumbers' supplier. This half-moon shaped device will allow you to push the leaves clear of the guttering.

GUITERING AND DRAINS

Next check the drainage outlets from the house. Make sure that the leaves are not blocking the flow of water. If they are, you'll need to take a spade and remove them. When drainage constantly attracts leaves, you should fit a plastic or mesh cover. If there is a continual problem with leaves in the guttering, mesh covers can also be

THE ROOF

For the elusive high section of the roof you will have to wait for a good, downpour. Take your umbrella and wander round the building in the rain. If you can see water splashing down the side of the building, either the guttering is blocked or broken. To inspect a very high roof an extending ladder will be required, which is probably best left to a plumber.

also ask them to take a look at the rest of the roof — the tiles, slates and flashings. If there are any slipped tiles or slates or holes in the flashing. you will need a roofing contractor to fix it. But if it looks in good order you should continue to monitor the roof yourself from inside by making regular inspections.

When there is water running down an external wall you should also look for possible damage to pointing. Check the internal wall for stained or

peeling paper or damp patches another sure sign of "water ingress". In this situation, you will need to call

LEAKS

In checking for sources of internal water damage make another tour of the house. Are there any leaky taps or fittings in the house? Combined with a few cracked tiles on a shower floor. this is a great recipe for a damaged ceiling below or fungi growing on the about the pipes? Are all exposed pipes and water tanks lagged? Check for leaks around water tanks, taps, toilets, exposed pipe joints, radiators and flexible hoses to washing ma-chines and dishwashers. If in the recent cold snap your pipes have burst, you must make sure they are lagged after being repaired, or else it

will happen again. It is also a good idea to have your heating system checked yearly. If the boiler runs on gas, the plumber should be Corgi registered. For oilfired installations, look for Oftecregistered installers. Always phone

to ask the price of a boiler service. From a quick ring around I found that the cost for an average London house should be no more than £100 for a full system check. Outside

London, prices are lower.

No one likes the expense of having to replace a major part of a heating system but if you find yourself in this unhappy position, it is probably better to do it now. As part of its energy conservation drive the Gov ernment, through the Energy Saving Trust, is offering cash back on energy saving products. These include condensing boilers and thermostatic radiator valves. Refunds range from £100 to £200, depending on the products and system. For conditions and information call the Energy Savings Trust on 0345 023005.

Another energy-saving cash-back incentive of £200 is also being offered by the trust for insulation. This only applies to houses with cavity walls,

which rules out the old solid-brick houses, but for keeping in the heat, insulation is a good option. For information ring 0800 0720158.

DRAUGHTS

For those of us with old solid-brick houses another walk around the house is in order. This time look or, more precisely, feel the draughts. Unwanted airflow through doors and windows is not too difficult to stop with a range of draught stoppers

Finally, a word about airflow that is needed. While draughts are unwanted, ventilation is essential. According to the BRE many householders have a preference for blocking up vents, either on purpose to stop cold air or inadvertently when adding a patio or conservatory and forgetting about air and drainage levels, ventilation and

even damp-proof coursing. Ventilation clears a building of condensation. Make sure bathrooms and kitchens are properly ventilated and introduce clearing window panes of condensation into your daily household chores.

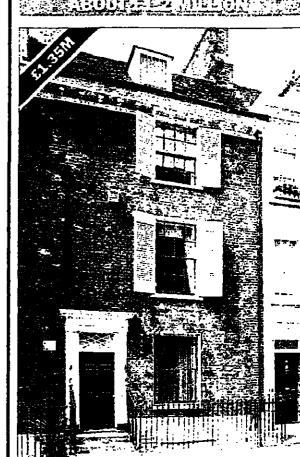
This may be a real nuisance but it will be a much more expensive nuisance to replace rotted window frames and sills, not to mention buying new curtains and linings that have become stained and mouldy.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

And if all this is forgotten and you have a mid-winter flood or the pipes where the stop valves and fuses are (check them a couple of times a year) because you will need to turn off the mains water, switch off the hot water and heating boilers, turn off the electricity and call a plumber.

Many of these checks are not as easy to accomplish for older people. As the BRE suggests, if your area has a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, perhaps a winter checking programme could be organised for the older members of the scheme.





Upper Cheyne Row, Chelsea SW3. Grade II listed Queen Anne house requiring refurbishment, with roof terrace and a 59th secluded rear parden. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, dressing room, two



Salitrop House, near Swindon. Grade II listed Georgian House in 71 acres of formal gardens, park and woodland. Four bedrooms, four bathrooms, four reception rooms, study, latchen, breakfast room. Victorian wing with four bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room. Stable block, outbuildings.



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literature between Guest cottage and swimming

If things are 'not quite right' with your house, it may be time to bring in a diviner

The narrow garden contained a lawn, a path, some shrubs — and a problem with water. So Bill Cooper, a dowser, was called in. After hammering an 8in copper rod into the earth, he announced: "We've found two

lines [streams]." Mr Cooper, who is president of the British Society of Dowsers, can detect water beneath the ground but he is more frequently asked to belp with problems which builders, surveyors and plumbers cannot reach: invisible prob-lems. Call it bad vibrations, call it psychic disturbance, call it something "not quite right" about a bouse.

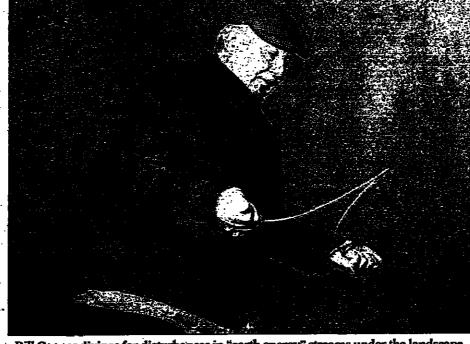
"I did see black lines swirling in the air," says the woman in whose garden Mr Cooper is hammering his copper stake. Mrs Worried of Weybridge, as I had better call her, has arranged for the dowser's house call when her husband is out, since "he sees this as ouackery".

g of the smell

And who can blame him? A sceptic would suggest that tested and that Mr Cooper, a retired general, ought to contact his ex-soldiers' organisation with a view to finding himself some form of care in the community. But then a sceptic has not suffered oddities encountered in the W household. A battery-powered toy that works in one part of room, but not in another. Mains equipment that goes beserk.

 The invisible and incredible are hard to check. Dowsers say that there appear to be force streams running under the landscape. Possibly caused by stresses in the rock below, these "earth energies" are tolerable. But if they are disturbed, for example by

The art of dowsing away evil waters



Bill Cooper divines for disturbances in "earth energy" streams under the landscape

pollution poured into a river. Some people pick them up. others don't. Mr Cooper finds that a copper pipe banged into the ground "upstream" acts as a filter to keep out the bad vibrations.

He has now diagnosed two such perturbed streams flowing under the house. I certainly detect something when I walk across the lawn with a divining kit that consists of two Rangle-rods, like thick bicycle wheel spokes with a right-angle bend. I hold one in

each hand. Suddenly the ends of the "barrels", which I have pointed straight ahead, swing towards each other and cross. As I continue walking, they immediately straighten out, oing cross-eyed again after a

Some years ago my own

house seemed to be suffering

from a kind of psychic dry rot.

become aware of a strange

electrical tension in the hall

and kitchen. Much worse was

an awful feeling of panic - an

almost physical sensation, it

definitely had an external

cause. It existed as a bad smell

but no one else in the family

seemed to have a nose for it.

proached the British Society

of Dowsers. Mr Cooper

After some months, I ap-

One night I had suddenly

further eight feet. Those two points, Mr Cooper says, mark the edges of the wider of the two streams.

"A likely story," I would have said, except that my own experience suggests that the dowser is not leading Mrs W up her own garden path.

was racing under my house. Disturbed by the old excavations for clay at the top of the hill, it was in turn disturbing my peace of mind. His solution was the same a few inches of copper hammered in at the top of the garden. I made a donation to a charity he runs and that was it Exorcised, purified, neutralised, earthed, de-energised, call it what you will. One term you can't use is

turned up with his assistant, Jill Mizen, and decided that a

wide torrent of earth energy

'placebo effect". If it had been entirely down to the power of suggestion, it would have gone away instantly. Instead, tion among my follicles. For the first time, the bad vibrations came upstairs and began vibrating while I was cleaning my teeth. I sprinted out of the bathroom, furious that this was one more room to be avoided at night.

Tortunately, it turned out - be the last splash of the dark stream, the final bubble of the kettle before it cut out. Since then I have been aware of some vaguely electrical force downstairs but these are neutral vibrations.

I tell Mrs W this reassuring story, omitting only the bit in the bathroom. A fortnight later, Mr Cooper tells me that the trouble in her house cleared up after a final outburst "She had a bad experience, like you. She saw things. but now all's well."

Mr W, who knows nothing of this saga, has just walked into the house. "Something feels different," he says.

Jonathan Sale British Society of Dowsers, Ashford, Kent TN25 5HW.

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The Times and Le Creuset, the French cookware company, offer you the chance to buy this saylish round grillit pan, with black enamel surface, a cast iron handle and 1014" diameter. Fullowing the growing interest in low fat or fat free cooking, the ribbed base on this Le Creuset grillit offers advantages to this style of cooking by collecting the excess oil. Available to Times readers for only £39 each, a saving of £3 on the mrrp of £37.

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finely grated rind of one lime; 4 tablespoons of lime juice; 2 tablespoons fresh chopped

freshly ground black pepper.

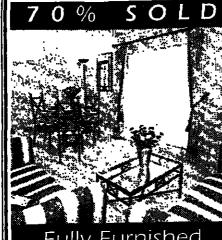
 Put the pieces of chicken into a non metallic dish. 2. Mix together all the marinade ingredients, pour over the chicken and leave to stand for 1-2 hours. Just before grilling lift the chicken out of the marinade and pat dry on absorbent kitchen paper. 3. Heat the grillst and oil lightly. Cook the chicken breasts for 45 minutes each side. A little of the marinade can be brushed over the chicken as it cooks. Garnish with wedges of lime and sprigs of fresh coriander.

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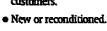
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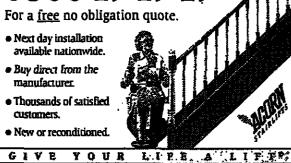
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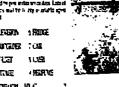




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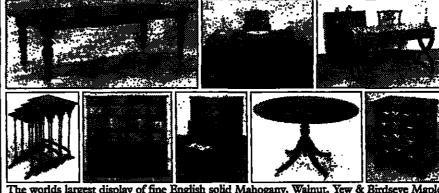
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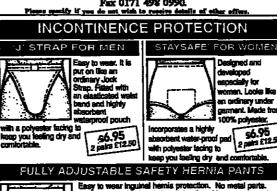
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PROPERTY

NEWS A TWO-BEDROOM apartment

built on the site of a medieval nunnery in Worcestershire is for

sale with a guide price of £130,000. The Doverdale suite is the central

section of Westwood House, near Droitwich Spa. The Grade I listed

house, now divided into 13 apartments, was built as a hunting lodge

in 1600 by Sir John Packington, named "lusty John" at the court of

Queen Elizabeth because of his athletic achievements. Contact Knight Frank, 01905 723438.

FPRICES of country houses and

cottages will rise by up to 40 per cent

by the year 2000, according to Strutt & Parker. James Laing, the head of the firm's rural division, predicts

little activity until June this year, particularly after the general election

HOMESWAP

What the same money will buy in England and Fra

A 44-year lease on this stucco-fronted four-bedroom town house in Chester Row, Belgravie, London costs £535,000. (Knight Frank, 0171-824 8171 and Chesterfield, 0171-581 5234)

For a little less you could buy this renovated 16th-century house in four acres of gardens overlooking an unspolit valley, near Faversham in Kent. Scooks House has seven bedrooms, four reception rooms, summerhouse and an all-weather tennis court.

Or you could consider this restored 18th century listed château i

23 acres of parkend, near timoges in the Limousin, central France, the former winter home of a Russian prince, costing £500,000. It has at least 15 norms, including a "grand salon", chapel, cottage and outbuildings. (Sifex, 0171-384 1200)

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ng the period. Perfect







Limed wood is the latest smart finish for floors. Joyce Blake offers a practical guide

floor but want a more subtle effect than painted floorboards, Liming is the new approach. It is hardwearing, practical and, when sealed, requires much less maintenance than an oiled or waxed floor. Liming gives an overall white hue to the floor and adds definition to the grain. Liming paste, a thick, white, chalky substance which was originally scrubbed into wood as a disinfectant, has become increasingly

popular as a decorative finish. Lola Gaji is a mixed-media artist who has been restoring her Victorian house in London for five years. She decided to use a lime effect on the floors in her basement. "I had to relay the floor because of a serious case of wood-rot," she says.

When I walk along a beach I am fascinated by driftwood that has been bleached by the sun and sea, and I thought a lime floor would recreate that look. It was easy to do."

The first stage is to establish the type of wood your floor is made from. Hardwoods such as oak, mahogany and teak are the most suitable for liming, because they are porous and grainy. Most floorboards are made from pine which is not porous enough for lime paste. In this case, you can create a favor effect using a white water stain. This will not have the same feel as liming on hardwood, but can look great in a modern home.



You will need: a nail punch, ham-mer, sanding machine (hired), clean rags, fine sandpaper.

For hardwood floors: a wire brush. hessian or coarse rags, liming paste, white Shellac polish, acid-cat or water-based lacquer. For softwood floors: prepared white

water stain (Mylands or Liberon are

good), water-based lacquer. Before liming: The floorboards will need to be prepared and cleaned thoroughly, because any wax or grease left on the floor will make the paint separate and dirty marks will show through the lime. Nails should be hammered in with a nail punch so

that they are just below the surface.



Lola Gaji was fascinated by bleached driftwood and thought a limed floor would recreate that look the remaining loose dust on the floor.

5 The floor can now be sealed. Apply

a coat of white Shellac polish before

varnishing as this will help prevent

the lime powder being pulled away when you are brushing on the

lacquer finish. Brush on two coats of

acid-cat or water based lacquer in a

man, silk or gloss finish. Avoid oil-

based lacquers as these can yellow

the liming effect.

SOFTWOOD FLOORS

HARDWOOD FLOORS

I Use a clean wire brush to rake out the grain of the wood. The floorboards should be brushed in the direction of the grain. You may find this easier if you slightly dampen the floor with water. The aim is to remove lighter graining and leave harder grain intact. When you have finished, vacuum-clean thoroughly. 2 Use clean hessian or coarse rags to apply the lime paste. Rub the paste on in the direction of the grain and then cross-wise to ensure that the grains are completely filled with paste. Dry to a powdery finish. 3 When the lime paste has dried rub

the floor with fine sandpaper. The paste should remain in the grooves of the grain and you should be left with a smooth surface. 4 Then use a damp rag to clear up all

The overall effect you are trying to achieve is of a white-painted floor that has been worn in and bleached with age. Do not worry if your floorboards vary in colour - irregularities add to the charm. I Paint the floorboards in the direction of the grain using a white prepared water stain. Work on small

matt or satin finish works well. Firms which stock products for liming floors and offer a mail-order service include Foxell and James, 57 Farringdon London ECIM 31B

FAX: 0171 481 9313

is announced, but sees rises of 5 per cent in the last half of the year, and of 10 per cent in 1998 and 1999. ■ ALTHOUGH the housing market usually does pick up until well into the new year. Douglas & Gordon's office in Battersea, southwest London, reports that more than 100 new applicants registered there

on January 3 alone.

THIS weekend sees the launch of the four remaining phase one properties at Try Homes's development at Princes Gate, Friern Barnet, London NIL situated in the grounds of the former Freiro Barnet hospital Fifteen of the 69 Victorian-style two. three and four-bedroom houses have already been sold off plan. Prices from £149,950. Contact Try Homes, 0181-368 0608.

IF YOU think renting is expensive, how about a seven-bedroom house in Holland Villas Road, Holland Park, west London available at £6,800 a week? The luxurious detached family house has an outdoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, seven bathrooms, and off-street parking. Contact Hamptons International,

AMANDA LOOSE

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

2 If you have very yellow pine flooring you may need to add a second coat of stain which can be Answers to the December 28 quiz are: I Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother 2 Teresa Gorman

> 3 The Boltons 4 Fred West 5 The Barclay twins 6 Buckingham Palace 7 Bob Geldof and Paula Yates

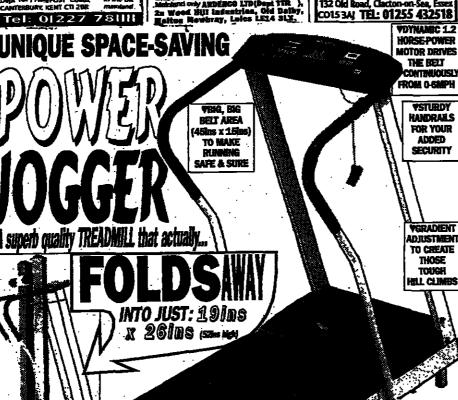
8 Liam Gallagher The winner of the all-inclusive twonight stay at Champneys health resort is Mary Williams, of Mickleham, Surrey.

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sections at a time and wipe off the

excess stain with clean rags. It is

important to do this before it dries or

you will end up with a patchy effect

Leave the stain to dry for approximately four hours or according to

applied after the first coat has dried.

3 Once the stain has dried give the

floor a very light hand sanding until

4 Seal with two coats of water-based

lacquer in a finish of your choice. A

manufacturers instructions.

you have a smooth finish.

(0171-405 0152/2487), and Paint Magic (0171-354 9696).

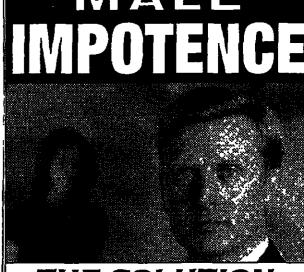
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CLINICS

Trained and unlicensed to kill

The collapse of communism has led to an invasion of so-called attack dogs, which have become the most popular pets in Russia

day, Moscow's open-air pet market greets its throng of visitors with the barking and howls of a thousand angry dogs.

Where children used to pet fluffy

kittens or choose from a litter of cuddly black labradors, the city's oldest market has been turned into some futuristic nightmare. Small-time Russian mobsters, identifiable from their uniform crew-cut hair and shell suits, stroll down the cramped stalls slapping each other on the back and sizing up the various dangerous dogs for sale. while choosing accessories like stud-ded collars and heavy chains to go with their new purchases.

"These are the perfect pets for today's Russia," says Afina, a middle-aged dog breeder, who lifts a blanket from a box to reveal two sleeping bull mastiff puppies. In their slumber the small but muscular creatures look deceptively harmless, an impression quickly dispelled by a glance at their mother, who has reared up on her hind legs and is barking savagely. restrained by four leads.

"Nowadays you need security. These dogs will guard your family and protect your property," Afina says, justifying the £800 asking price, before adding as an uncon-vincing afterthought that "they are also great with children".

Infatuation with dogs is nothing new in Russia. In pre-Revolution days hunting dogs and family pets were an obsession of the aristocracy. The passion survived under communism as well. Even though Soviet citizens lived in tiny, cramped flats and food was difficult to come by, Moscow's parks and courtyards were always filled with pedigree Afghan hounds and Great Danes. which were often fed better than

During the Soviet period dog breeding was strictly controlled and guard dogs were limited to only seven official breeds, including the giant central Asian and caucasian shepherds and the indigenous black terrier, said to be a favourite of Lavrenti Beria, one of Stalin's henchmen. But the collapse of

n a bitterly cold winter's of attack dogs, which are now the most popular pets in the country, Fidel Castro's brother is

rumoured to have imported the first six pitbulls into Russia in 1990. Since then, for reasons of personal security and status, rottweilers, pitbulls, bull mastiffs and Staffordshires have become the latest accessory for New Russians. The newlymoneyed class think nothing of paying up to £1,500 for a pure-bred puppy, to add to their Mercedes and dacha in the country.

Predictably, the new fad has caused problems in Moscow, where attacks by dogs have increased by

'Rottweilers, pitbulls and bull mastiffs go with the Mercedes and the country dacha'

more than 50 per cent this year. Sometimes it is the owners, ignorant of how to discipline their new pets. who are the victims, but mostly it is the ordinary citizens, for whom the city's parks have become an obstacle course of vicious canines.

While jogging through a park in the city recently. I was set upon by a doberman, which barked, snapped at my heels and lunged at me until his owner called him off, without apology. Others have been less lucky. One businessman, who had neglected to feed his pitbull, was mauled to death in November.

Konstantin Kuznetsov, a dog trainer, is not surprised by the casualty rate. He used to teach dogs to "sit" and "stay", but now owners want to teach their dogs new tricks. "Mostly owners want me to train their dogs to bite — or kill," he says. The authorities have threatened to

curb the uncontrolled sale of attack dogs, although the overstretched police force is too busy with crime to take on the task. One proposal put forward by the Moscow city council envisages restricting dangerous

clubs and forcing all owners to undergo a dog training course. However, so far the attempts have

led nowhere and a huge unregu-lated cottage industry of breeders has sprung up across the country. The failure of the law to deal with the problem was highlighted last year in the Volga town of Samara when a man was fined 20,000 roubles (£2) by a court after his-rottweiler killed a drunken assailant by biting him through the neck.

Certainly, few politicians would want to risk incurring the anger of dog lovers by advocating a crackdown. The popular appeal of man's best friend was exploited by several candidates during last summer's presidential election race. General Aleksandr Lebed, the former security chief, made it known that his free time is spent taking Cheswick, his English sheepdog, for walks. Similarly Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, dotes on Daisy, his poodle, and Grigori Yavlinsky, the main liberal leader, is passionate about his alsatian.

The self-made millionaire Vladimir Bryntsalov, a classic New Russian, revealed that he was trendier than his opponents. Pride of place among his pets are a rottweiler and two caucasian shepherds, the fiercest Russian breeds.

ny talk of restrictions is greeted as fanciful by Marguerita, a young Russian businesswoman who predicts that the phenomenon of attack dogs is just beginning in Russia. She is chairman of Moscow's Pitbull Association and is the proud owner of Red Alert, a fearsome-looking pitbull, who is not only the family pet but also an important source of income. The dog is a champion fighter, unbeaten in three contests, when the stakes often run as high as £6,500.

"I organise fights a few times a year, when people fly in from around the country to participate." says the breeder, who insists that fighting dogs are trained never to attack human beings. "If it is done properly, it is a good sport. I think it



RICHARD BEESTON Dogs on sale at a Moscow street market. Russians are happy to pay up to £1,500 for fashionable breeds

A VET WRITES

My King Charles span-icl, Holly, has an eye problem. I bathe her eyes every day but there is always a catarrh-like mucus in them and now there is a bluish film over the cycball.

Holly has conjunctivitis A and the infection has extended on to the cornea, the surface of the eyeball. This could lead to ulcers, which are acutely painful, or to scarring, which can cause blindness. Take Holly to your vet as soon as you can. Some damage will have been done but, with proper treatment, there is a good chance that she will end up with pain-free eyes and efficient, if not perfect, sight.

We have a pair of guin-ea pigs. The male is about three months old and the female, ten weeks. When will they be old enough to breed? What is the gestation period and should we separate them before the young are born?

They are old enough now and baby guinea pigs may already be on the way. Gestation varies dependent ing on the litter size: about 68 days for triplets or quads (the average number) but, if there is only one or two, they may not be born for a day or so longer. Baby guinea pigs are born fully furred, eyes open. active and feeding on solid food within a couple of days. They feed from their mother for three to four weeks. If their father is excitable it would be better to separate him from them - he will not harm them but may trample on them.

Ben, our five-year-old neutered cat, started straining and was in agony. We thought he was constipated but the vet found he could not pass urine. He was given an anaesthetic and the blockange was cleared. My vet says crystals from the urine cause such blockages and it could happen again. A friend says that dry cat-food is the cause. Ben has always had tinned food. Is there anything I can do to prevent a recurrence?

A Feline urolithiasis syndrome (FUS), the name of this condition, affected cats long before dry cat-food was available. Two things could help. Cats take most of their fluid as part of their food (raw meat and canned foods con-tain up to 75 per cent water). The more Ben drinks, the less the risk of further crystal formation. Add gravy or meat juice to his drinking water and, if you have boiled fish, save that water for him.

It is not wise to give dry food (it only contains 10 per cent water) to cats that have had bladder trouble, because this may lead them to produce concentrated urine. This is not the same thing as saying dry food causes FUS.

Crystals do not form so readily in acid urine. You could ask your vet if he or she advises tablets to make sure Ben's urine always turns litmus paper red.

JAMES ALLCOCK • Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times. I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Advice is offered without

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MISCELLANEOUS

LLIXURY ANIMAL

e 'Interiors', page 79 of

the colour magazine, for Full Colour Ad

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HEIDI is a four-year-old brown labrador cross who vaccinated. She is a loyal dog and would suit a retired couple with no other pets who could devote time to

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Chez is a 14-month-old tricolour collie and labrador cross who is very energetic and would suit an active family who are used to dogs as he needs some training. Contact National Canine Defence League Rescue Centre, Bridgend, Tondu Road, Bridgend, Mid Gla-morgan CF31 4LH (01656 652771).



Heidi (left) is very loyal whereas Chez is energetic

Feeling ill? The eyes have it

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

said, as shown by

matic arthritic ul-

cerative and skin

complaints

grandmother's

crippling arthritis). The white and

yellow clouds in

your eyes show a shiggish

lymph system which is strug-

gling to get rid of toxins," he

behind my bad skin. Rings

round my eye rims indicated

stress (no surprises there)

while he also spotted a slightly

spastic colon. Solution: relax-

But it was his appendix spot

that convinced me. A dark

mark in my eye was exactly

the spot in the lower abdomen

where my appendix had once

been. I was stunned when he

Iridology

ation techniques.

So that's what may be

dam Jackson has a perfect peachy com-plexion. Yet for years he suffered from psoriasis which left him with red scaly blotches that itched as if insects were crawling under "I remember endless coal-

tar baths and repeated applications of ointments and pastes, and being wrapped up daily in cling film like a halfeaten piece of cucumber," he says. "My skin did get better, but it never fully cleared. His determination to heal

himself led him to alternative medicine and an acupuncturist who used iridology. The psoriasis vanished. Mr Jackson was so impressed that he spent a year training with the then British School of Iridology and has been an iridologist for the past decade.

I met him at his clinic in Golders Green, northwest London. He did not take down the usual medical and lifestyle details, as other therapists have. All he wanted to know was whether I wore contact lenses (they must be removed) or suffered epilepsy (treatment is ill-advised as it involves bright lights which could trigger a fit). He spent three minutes using a special video camera called an "iroscope" to photograph the irises and to project the image onto a large screen for analysis.

Up flashed my eyes, enlarged so they all but filled the television screen. I was surprised by the number of colours and textures: I'd aiways thought of myself as brown eyed, full-stop. The iris is believed to be a window to your health because it responds to changes in the ner-The left iris is believed to register changes in the left side of the body.

while the right shows those in the right. Colour is thought to show your constitutional **RACHEL KELLY** leanings: so the brown-eyed for example, tend to be poor metabolisers of fats: the blue-eyed tend to develop acid conditions such as arthri-

tis: while those with mixed

irises tend to suffer poor

digestions. The fibres of the iris are claimed to reveal the condition of the organs and assues throughout the body. There are only three basic iris colours: blue, brown and green. Any other colour such as orange or yellow is caused by

toxins. My system was overloaded with acid, Mr Jackson



Adam Jackson: iridologist

What it is Close

examination of the iris to show an individual's health. Advantages: A way of diagnosing what is wrong which is non-invasive. It car detect tissue change before it becomes diseased Disadvantages: It does not claim to treat the Cost: £50 for the initial session, E30 for a follow up after three months, £15 for a

the spots of vellow when I was II. Eye-gazing supposedly began with Hippocrates. By and orange discoloration. That means I would be susceptible to rheu-

said I must have had it out

the 17th century, eye analysis was an established diagnostic method across Europe. But iridology proper began in the 19th century when the Hungarian doctor Ignatz von Peczely noticed a black mark in an owl's eye which had broken its leg. He found the same mark in a patient with the same complaint.

d Gledhil

Mr Jackson convinces by his modest claims for his trade. 'Iridology is simply an extension of conventional forms of diagnosis through the eye.

Post-diagnosis, Mr Jackson calls on his herbal, massage and nutritional skills to advise , treatment. He outlined a "personal preventative health-care programme" for an extra £15. which suggests diet, breathing exercises to reduce stress and speed up lymph flow and nutrinonal advice. I should avoid tomatoes, switch to apple cider rather than white wine vinegar, and reduce the amount of meat I eat. I pondered quite how many times a week I ate a vinegary iomato salad. Two weeks and far less meat later, whisper it quietly, but I feel fantastic.

● Tridology, by Adam Jackson is published by Vermilion, £8.99, ● Adam Jackson, c10 of International Association of Clinical Iridologists, 853 Finchley Road, London NW LI (0181-458

7781). The association can put you in touch with an iridologist in

your area.

The guild of Naturopathic Iridologists, 15 Grosvenor Lodge, 94 Grosvenor Road, London SWIV 3.F.





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THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

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Tired hand that rocks the cradle

ou can tell J.M. Barrie was not a father. There he was. writing this play for and about children, and he had three of them, Wendy, Michael and John, put to bed, not by their mater or pater (this being an upper-middleclass household), nor an applechecked nanny, but by a dog. Ridiculous. Once you believe that, you'll believe a boy can fly.

Every parent, on the other hand, knows that getting a small child to sleep is an enterprise requiring patience and fortitude. Put them down too early and they yell the house down. Leave it too late and they yell the house down because they're over-tired. Like Goldilocks and the porridge scenario, it has to be done just right.

I am, at present, training our two-year-old, Grace, to go to sleep.

I have been doing so for some time

fact. It's not that she's anti-sleep per se, just that she thinks it

should be rurned into an event, like Christmas or birthdays. Frequently, when I stumble through the door after a hard day's wage slaving, she, all pyjama-ed up, will greet me with a kiss and the welcome words: "Hiyo, Daddy. Me tard. Wunngo bed." Her mother will not demur. "She didn't have a nap so she's been hell all afternoon," my wife will say, her

voice glowing with love. So good old Daddy takes over. Does she have her milk? Does she have her comfort blankets? Yes --two. One used to be a spare, but now she seems to have decided that it's such a rough old world two are the basic minimum. Does she have her plastic Donald Duck

PERSONAL LIFE

figure she got out of a cereal box and prefers to her other, more

expensive, toys? OK, let's go.
While Grace sleeps in her own bed, she goes to sleep on ours, unless she's so exhausted that she could fall asleep anywhere (including, on one notorious occasion, the bath). This is fine: ours is a double bed, and hers is pathetically small and narrow. Hardly enough room for her, let alone me.

Grace, you see, likes to be cuddled to sleep on our bed. She also likes to be patted and have her hair stroked. But there again, who doesn't? So I cuddle and pat and stroke, and she drinks her milk, occasionally taking the bottle out

watch television. Fatal, that. We didn't use to, and it may or may not be coincidental that, since we

started doing so, she has taken longer to nod off. But on the other hand, have you any idea how boring it is, just patting and stroking and making silly shhhh sounds, supposedly guaranteed to have even the most resilient toddler spark out in seconds?

Anyway, ever since she worked out which button turned the TV on, there's been no stopping her. Any set she sees has to be switched on. or she throws a wobbly. At any rate, that's the excuse I have for leaving it on. By this means I have become a fan of EastEnders. having never previously watched it

Being a child of the Sixties, I am

with my little girl cradled in my left arm, and I send out relaxation waves. I try to convince her that I, too, am falling asleep. My breathing slows and deepens and I might add a little snore for dramatic effect. Frequently, my performance is so good that the next thing I know my wife is shaking me awake. I tell her I wasn't asleep,

just resting my eyes, but I don't

think she believes me.

Grace's breathing slows and deepens as well. The hand clutching my finger relaxes. She hands me her bottle and makes little snuffling noises of contentment. All the signs are right. Five more minutes of this and I can go downstairs and bask in the congratulations of my wife, a fine voman but one sadly bereft of the subtleties that make for an inter-

national-class child get-to-sleeper The next stage sounds simple enough. Remove sleeping child from crook of arm. Waggle arm until pins and needles disappear. Get off hed. Lift child up. Carry to own room. Lay down on own bed. Cover with comfort blankets and duvet. But at any time in the procedure the child can reveal the awful truth - she's been shamming. "Awake," she will say, and prove it by jumping up and down

and giggling. That's when relaxation techniques and sleep vibes go right out the window. "Go to sleep," I shout, quietly. She knows enough has been enough. She throws herself on to the pillow and shuts her eyes so tight she almost gives herself a headache. She makes the snoring noises she picked up off her dad. In time, she even believes it herself and goes to sleep for real. Finished. Done and dusted. And it only took

CHRIS CAMPLING

You can't smack me. I don't live here

Adults should not be made to feel guilty for chastising other

people's badly-behaved children

The tone

adopted

by these

parents

in the days that kens back to. Doors were never locked and women could walk out at night. Society seemed to work better. Yet if a neighbour caught a child stealing from his orchard he was just as likely to cuff the miscreant as drag him back to the family home for chastisement. Policemen did it too - and

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FELY SPEAKING

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caretakers and park-keepers. Corporal punishment from strangers was one of the daily hazards for a young lad off on his adventures.

course some fam ilies still believe in smacks within the family — and we are one of them.

Our six-year-old son John is a complete handful at times and he usually gets a red card warning before being smacked on the hand but even we found it difficult to accept someone else administering the blow.

At my daughter's school there is a mother who rarely mixes with the other parents and never attends social events. For a long time I wondered if this woman thought herself above the com-Miranda told me the dreadful secret of Megan's mother. This other girl pushed Megan over in the playground and Megan's mum smacked her." Now it seems that no one wants their daughter going to play at Megan's house and encountering the risk of physical violence.

Some parents are more pro-

tective still. A friend of mine, a surgeon whom I've often heard threatening his own children with dire punishments, told me that he considers other people chastising or rebuking his offspring "way out of line"

In recent years, as Britain has lost its sense of community, so discipline seems to have become the exclusive province of parents. If John or Miranda are ever involved in trouble at

the houses of other children I've noticed that we get full and anxious feedback from the hosts. "I told him that if he hit Sam again he'd have to go and play in another room and when he did hit Sam I'm afraid I did take him next apologetic door until he prom-ised he wouldn't do

it any more."

Sometimes the tone adopted by these poor parents verges on the apologetic. They're very sorry for having been driven to reproach our offspring, and are getting in their own version of events straight away, iust in case we subsequently hear an exaggerated account of physical or emotional abuse from our children ("Joss shouted at us all the time we were there"). The problem today is that all too often society will assume that Joss is the transgressor simply because she was raising her voice at somebody else's children.

For many people I know, a rebuke to their children feels like an attack on the family unit, something to be repelled at all costs. I know a woman who told a boy off for persistently letting his dog stray into her garden and defaecate. Unfortunately the boy's father



Adrian and Katharine Mourby at home in Cardiff with their children John and Miranda. "All children are naughty sometimes. It's no big deal if someone else points this out"

"lay off my boy". When parents believe their job is to defend their children -- right or wrong — rather than actu-ally make them good members of society I do feel the time has come for someone to say: "All children are naughty sometimes. It's no big deal if

someone else points this out." The problem is these days we are all of us scared of

disciplining other people's

children. My mother is one of ly one where we are all in loco the few people I know who will point out to a teenage boy that he has just dropped his fish and thip paper in the street. Most of us want to see an end to litter but we don't feel we should step in and rebuke the child who causes it. That is the responsibility of his parents and if they fail in that responsibility that is something the rest of us just have to bear. A

sensible caring society is sure-

parentis for young children, if

their parents aren't on hand. A few years ago we were staying in a National Trust holiday cottage where there were lots of pheasants wandering the grounds. Little John had taken great delight in chasing these birds hither and thither, because pheasants are slow on the ground and reluctant to take to the air. We did

half-hearted tone of parents who are on holiday and who would dearly like a rest from responsibility, but of course he took no notice.

Then one day a stranger in a Land Rover pulled up, opened the door and politely but firmly told John to stop molesting the birds. I wasn't there to witness this event but I gather that John completely collapsed rushed back to our cottage

the time I would have wanted him to address his rebuke via me, as the parent. But given that I wasn't, it was right that something was said. Right for the birds who were panicking. right for drivers in the car park who didn't want frenzied pheasants flying out in front of them and right for John who suddenly realised that other people do care about how he behaves in public. Even if most of the time they don't say anything. I'm clear in my own mind that I would never license someone to hit, or even cuff, my children. We have a primitive, healthy, aversion to our offspring being struck by

where he buried his face in the

sofa. We were all sorry for him

but the man was perfectly justified. Had I been there at

Some things were better in my father's day and one of them was the way in which everyone in the community had a stake in each other's orderly behaviour. Small rebukes to children were a daily occur-rence. All too often these days we keep our heads down and only speak out if the behaviour of some child is more than we can bear. The result is that we erupt in anger - like my friend with the dog - and that the aggrieved parent resents our intervention. What we need is more people in Land Rovers pulling up to put the pheasant's point of view.

strangers but even strangers

must be entitled to speak out

when our children misbehave.

ADRIAN MOURBY

Ruth Gledhill finds evidence of strong religious belief and dedication in a presbytery dating from Tudor times Forget astrology, find your star and follow it



ON THE church noticeboard, a faith-ful parishioner had posted a cartoon of the confessional. The drawing depicted a hirsute priest and penitent, who was saying: "Father, I have these awful

thoughts. I want to grow a beard." Father Charles Jeffries, rosycheeked and ebullient, was clearly the subject. He could also have stepped out of the Tudor period, the era when his house was built, making it the oldest continually. occupied presbytery in England. Aside from his carelessly discarded jokes, his twinkly eyes and jovial disposition, what marked him out was the vigour and magnificence of

his immaculately groomed white

and grey beard. In the early Middle Ages, priests in some areas were forbidden by local canon law to grow beards. Later the fashion reversed, and by the Counter Reformation the trend was for bishops and priests to flourish their extremely long, flowing white facial hair. Today priests can sport beards or not, as they wish, although in some circumstances a beard can still seem unusual enough to send a kind of spiritual frisson down the spine.



Father Charles Jeffries at the Church of Our Lady of Consolation

plain or whitewashed and adorned solely by the Stations of the Cross, is one of the best known and most popular in the Roman Catholic Church's Arundel and Brighton diocese. Hilaire Belloc is buried there, and the shrine of Our Lady of Consolation attracts regular pil-

The church was especially full for the reception of a young woman, a former Anglican, into the Catholic community. Children ran around, The Gothic style church, its walls laughed and giggled at the back or

ran to the front to play with teddy bears and other Christmas presents in a side chapel as we heard readings from Isaiah, Ephesians and St Matthew's Gospel.

As it was the season of Epiphany, our priest preached on the story of the three wise men. "We all have our star to follow." he said, "although if you were to read what the new Catholic catechism has to say about astrology. I wonder how it is that we accept that these men were guided by a star." The catechism seemed to

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★ **PARISH PRIEST: Father Charles** ARCHITECTURE: Built in the last century. *** **SERMON:** Gently

humorous. *** MUSIC: Alleluia chorus from The essiah, plus chamber-music style ccompaniment to hymns. *** LITURGY: Eucharist from the Roman missal ★★★ SPIRITUAL HIGH:

Consoling. *** AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, wine and tour of priest's house, ***

write the whole of astrology off as rubbish, he said, going on to agree that it could, at times, be just that. "When I read my horoscope while waiting in the queue at the barber, it always mentions great financial opportunities or my love life. And this to a priest. Really, it is bunkum.

But we all do have a star to follow." That lesson became clear when I was later taken on a tour of the timbered presbytery, a dimly lit maze of corridors, low ceilings and curving stairways. As we wound our way up to the chapel in the rafters, we passed a brick-lined hole, now lit with a spyhole for visitors to see where priests hid during the days of suppression and persecution, when the penalty for being a priest was

That this church exists at all was thanks to the Caryll family, supporters of the old religion, who sheltered priests disguised as servants. The secret chapel was built, complete with hiding holes, after the Gunpowder Plot, and according to legend people have been healed there. No records have been kept but a pair of 17th-century crutches testify to the story of one disabled labourer who was raised to the chapel six times by stepladder, and on the seventh time discarded his crutches and walked away, fully fit.

The chapel also contains the relics of the Venerable Francis Bell who gave himself up to save three young priests and was beheaded, hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn in 1643. There is also a picture of this remarkable Catholic martyr that looks as if it could be a photograph taken yesterday. This was a man who certainly followed his star to its ultimate conclusion.

◆ The Church of Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis, Park Lane West Grinstead, West Sussex RH13 8LT

CHRISTMAS JUMBO CROSSWORD

The winner of the Christmas Jumbo Crossword, who receives a methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne and £100, is P. Hellawell of Leeds.

The five runners-up, who receive £100 each, are A. Chambers of London Wil; C. Lyons of London E17; S. Somerville of Twickenham, Middlesex; S. Valentine of London W6; P. Wilkes of Alne, North Yorkshire.

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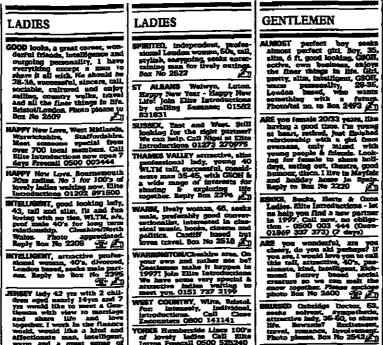
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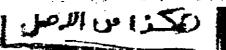
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Oh brother, it's so quiet in Majorca

Four pages on Spain open with Tony Kelly enjoying monastic peace

in the hills

church terrace, watching the sun disappear behind the mountains. All I could hear was birdsong, and palm trees whistling in the preeze. The views stretched for miles on one side of the mountains; the plain, with small villages dotted here and there and surrounded by patchwork fields. Somewhere in the distance I heard the tinkling of sheep bells. I could have been anywhere in one of the undiscovered regions of southern Europe. But I was not I was in Majorca.

There are many reasons not to stay in Majorca's hilltop sanctuaries. You will not get a hot bath every night. You will have to make your own bed. If towels and chocolates on your pillow, forget it. But if I have not yet managed to put you off, think of the rewards. Peace and solitude in some of Majorca's most beautiful places Views to die for. A strange sense of history and of the presence of God. Not what you xpect from Majorca at all.

staying in a Palma hotel and manager lent me his copy couple, Nick and Jill Carter. A Stay in Mallorcan Monasteries - he wrote the words, she drew the pictures - describes their journey of discovery around seven former hermitages. The monks have left but the monasteries remain, offering simple accommodation.

Ten miles from Palma airport, Puig de Randa rises out of the central plain. The summit of this mountain is where it all began, when the 13thcentury mystic Ramon Llull established Majorca's first hermitage to atone for a life of excess. His conversion from a devotion to wine and women came when he chased a married woman through Palma's streets, only for her to pull up her blouse to reveal diseaseridden breasts. Chastened, he retired to Prig de Randa to write scholarly texts, study languages and then become a missionary in Tunisia. There were rooms available

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From Soil on a Sunday.

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here, but I decided to move on to the Ermita de Bonany. overlooking the village of Petra. Bonany means "good year": the name derives from 1609, when villagers made a pilgrimage to the chapel to pray for rain and their prayers were answered in abundance. was here that another

famous Majorcan missionary Junipero Serra, preached his last sermon before setting out for Mexico and California, where he was to found the missions which grew into San Diego and San Francisco. His bust is in the Capitol in Washington, where he is honoured as the "founder of California".

The pony-tailed caretaker led me to my "cell" in the former monks' quarters. He used to be a policeman but

gave it up for a more spiritual life; now he sells rosaries to pilgrims and produces leaflets advertising Buddhist meditation. The cell was white, with a heavy door, a vaulted ceiling and a picture of the Virgin on the wall. There was a washbasin in the corridor and a cold shower, which I declined.

hat night I was the only visitor. I crept into the chapel to light a candle, then went to bed at 9pm, slept for ten hours, and woke with sunlight flooding through the shutters. Later I went into Petra.

The street leading to Serra's house is adorned with ceramic paintings depicting his vari-ous missions. The house has been preserved, and the garden brims with cactus, palm

and bamboo. Next door is a Serra museum; the caretaker lives in the next street and will let you in for a donation.

Pollensa, 20 miles north of Petra, is dominated by its Calvary hill, a flight of 365 stone steps lined with cypress trees. Puig de Maria ("Mary's mountain") overlooks the town; the monastery on its summit can be seen for miles around. The narrow road to the peak is all terrifying angles and impossible bends. I settled for an hour's walk to the top, from where the 365 steps I had climbed earlier suddenly seemed very small. My re ward was a hot shower, for which I paid 300 pesetas (£1.60). The caretaker rustled up an omelette and a glass of house red. and by the time I returned to my cell the lights vere sparkling over the bay of

Alcudia below. Lluc, a short drive away, is Majorca's centre of pilgrimage. It was founded in the 13th century when an Arab shepherd boy, newly converted to Christianity, discovered a statue of the Virgin in the rock. Three times it was placed in the local church, but each time it returned to its hiding place. whereupon the villagers recognised a divine message and built a chapel to house it.

owadays La More neta (The Little Dark One") is encrusted with iewels and acts as a magnet for both pilgrims and coach parties. The monastery has become more like a cheap hotel, popular with mountain walkers a single room with bath costs about EIO. "It's like staying at the Ritz," Nick Carter warned me, but I believe that the Ritz makes your bed for you. Certainly, though, Lluc is the most comfortable of the mon-

asteries in which to stay. At 11.15 each morning, bluecassocked choirboys perform for tourists: they sing again at dusk, when the tourists have gone. The first occasion is crowded and artificial, the second is peaceful and meaningful. At sunrise the next morning I climbed the Way of the Rosary and looked down on the sand-coloured build-

enveloped in a golden glow. I saved the remotest setting for last. To reach the Castell d'Alaro you have to drive for three miles up a pot-holed

ings, now eerily quiet and

track, park at Es Verger restaurant (try the roast lamb. cooked in a wood-burning oven), and climb for another hour up a steep, zigzagging path. When you reach the castle ruins you understand how the Moors managed to hold out here for 60 years after

the Christian conquest. Fur-

ther up still, through the trees, is the tiny sanctuary of Nostra Senyora del Refugio. Incredibly, a young couple live here, running a hostel and restaurant (they even take Visa) and bringing supplies up by mule.

There was no shower, not even a cold one, the lavatory had no seat, the bedroom was

spartan and even with four blankets folded double I could not keep out the chill. But oh. the views: the Mediterranean on three sides, the entire Majorcan plain, the monasteries at Randa and Petra, the mountains where pine trees grow out of red rock. In the distance was Palma, its cathedral and castle visible by day. its lights sparkling at night. I could just make out the resorts around Palma Bay, by now throbbing with nightlife. Yet here I was, alone on the mountain with my own private view. Twelve miles apart. two sides of Majorca. I knew which one I preferred.

THE ITINERARY

DAY I London (Heathrow)-Berlin Morning

flight with Lufthansa, Drive to Pasdam for an

afternmen visit to see the record palaces of Sans Souri and the News Palais, Late afternoon transfer

to the MS Konigstein for early exening sailing.

DAY 2 Brandenburg - Magdeburg Cruise along

day excursion to medical Tangermunde, one of

DAY 3 Magdeburg - Wittenberg Morning on the

river. After lunch we will reach Descay famous for

be an opportunity to take a goodola ride through

of the landscaped garden and the various palaces. Rejoin the vessel in Wittenberg with time to explor

on foot before dinner. Moor overnight in Elster.

DAY 4 Elster-Merschwitz In the mid-morning

arrive at Torgan, lamous for its huge fortified castle which stands on the banks of the Film, it was also the

meeting point of Allied and Swiet forces in May 1945

Set Moritahurg Castle, Sail on to Dreaden arriving in time for lunch. Aftermoon visit to Zwinger Palace, the most important baroque building in Germany housing collections of oriental and early Meissen porcelain. Moor overnight and watch the

am ser mer Dresden's unique haroque skyline.

DAY 6 Dresden - Zernosseky The highlight of

high above the river this huge forgress dates back

nore than 750 years. Today we shall pass some of

the loseliest scenery on the route, entering Bullemia

DAY 7 Zernosseky-Prague Morning on the river. After an early lunch drive to Prague for an afternoon of exploration in a city which survived

World War II unscuthed, Ser Prague Castle, former

mia and the Gothic cathedral of St Vitus.

imperial stronghold and residence of the Kings

Rejoin the second at Prague-Troja and sail into the rity during our farewell dinner on board.

DAY 8 Prague-London (Heathrow) Disembark after breakfast and drive to the Old Town. There

day will be the visit to konigstein Castle, perched

DAY 5 Merschwitz-Dresden Marning call at

Meissen. Visit the porcelain factors and the

architecture. Most overnight in Magdeburg.



MAJORCA FACT FILE ■ British Midland (0345 554554) has daily flights from Heathrow to Palma. Prices until February 17 are

Car hire all the leading firms have offices at Palma airport but local compani offer competitive prices. A lbiza for five days. ing insurance and a full tank of petroi, costs £112 through Hasso Rent A Car in Can Pastilla (00 34 7126 1005). Another good local firm is Serra (00 34 7126 9411). Always check that the car hire price includes full insurance and VAT.

stay must include a Saturday night).

Monastery from 900 pesetas (£4.70) at Alaro to 2,250 pesetas (£11.80) at Liuc. It is best to book ahead in summer and at weekends. Telephone numbers (from UK, preface them with 00 34 71): Ermita de Bonany, Petra, 561101: Santuari del Puig de Maria, Pollenca, 530235; Monestir de Lluc, 517025; Santuari del Refugio, Alaro. 510480. You can also stay at Puig de Randa (660994) and Salvador near Felanitx (580656). All except Petra serve

■ When to go: the summer can become almost unbearably hot and overcrowded in Majorca; however, in the winter



Old pilgrims' quarters in Lluc, with stables beneath

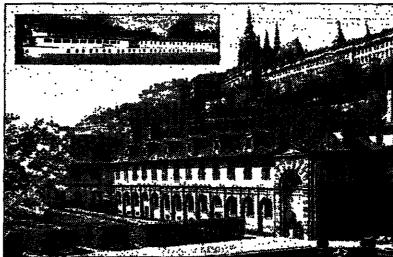
extremely cold. The best months to go are March to June November.

Reading: A Stay in Mallorcan Monasteries (£3.50) is available from: Nick Carter, 81 Plains of Waterloo. Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8JE.

(0171-229 5260) also recommends: Eniovin Majorca by Pamela Leggs £15.99, ISBN 0 906 63521 7): Not Part of the Package by Paul Richardson (Pan. £5.09. ISBN 0 330 33541 32 Mallorea and Menorca by Phil Lee (Rough Guides, 18.99, ISBN 1858 28165 2).

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the former Jewish ghetto and New Youn before transferring to the nirport in the late afternoon for the scheduled Casch Airlines flight.

will be free time to explore the old quarter,

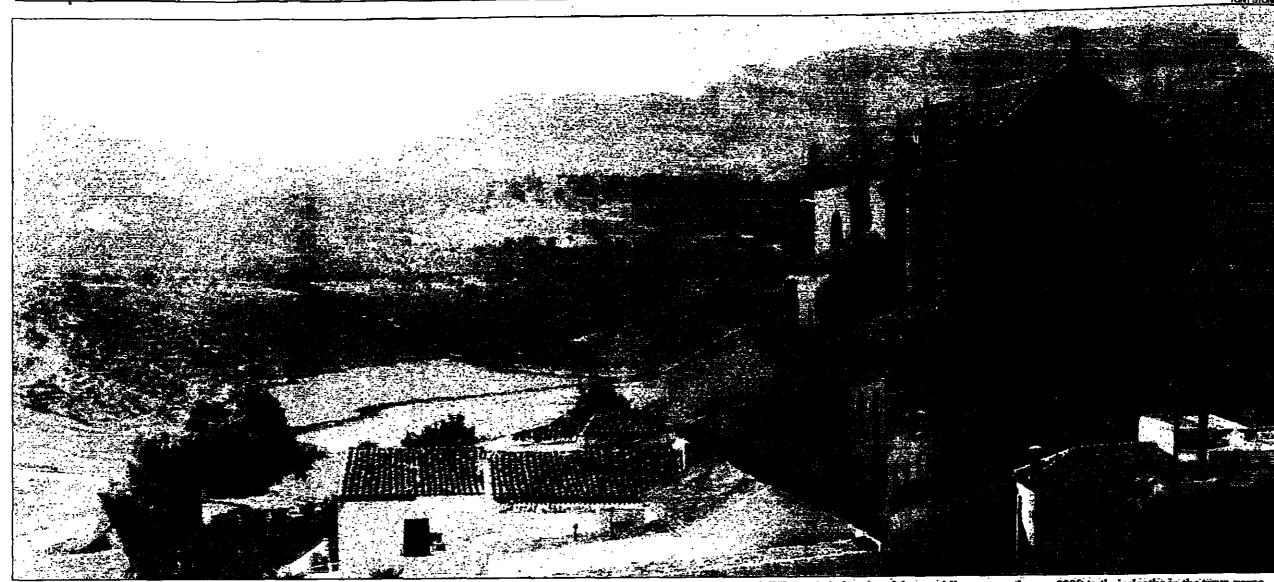
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Spain: History and high living in the hills of Andalusia; plus Catalonia and its unorthodox cuisine and



Ronda, set in an amphitheatre of hills, is a white, flower-filled Moorish city of palaces and churches in cobbled streets. In the Spanish Civil War, 502 prisoners of the republicans were thrown 300ft to their deaths in the town gorge

A welcome in Ronda valley fter an hour of seeing right off the terrifying two-lane coastal motorway from Malaga and headed into the mountains. Within minutes our spirits

had lifted. We were driving empty of habitation apart from an occasional farmhouse with distant views of the sierras. Seemingly miles away at the top of the nearest mountain we could see a speck of white, which revealed itself slowly as we drove ever upwards through hairpin bends as the village of Gaucin.

It was in this small mountain community, 1,800ft up on the edge of the Sierra Bermeja and dominated by a Moorish castle that I spent one of the most idyllic weeks of my life last summer.

We stayed at Las Pilas, a Spanish aristocrat's villa with its own helipad, set on a sloping hill away from the oleander, bougainvillea and geraniums. The villa could sleep nine people in five bed- on the coast and, shimmering

distantly and tantalisingly berooms, including a suite with yond, the lights of Morocco. sitting room and bathroom. More romantic, the 13th-cen-On the top level there was a tury castle of Gaucin was huge shaded terrace for eating and reading. Another terrace below led from the studio - a

the west. On the far horizon at

night, demonstrating that

life on the planet, were the

twinkling lights of Algeciras

Our Andalusian holiday perfect retreat for the teencould not have been more ideal for what I wanted, which agers of the party - which had was a week of flopping out. As its own sitting room, bedrooms and bathroom, to a we roused ourselves in the swimming pool and a covered mornings the mist was lifting pergola with a fridge. off the mountains and there The most breathtaking feawas the tinkling sound of the donkeys' bells as they trudged to work. We breakfasted on ture of Las Pilas, however, was the view. All around us towthe terrace in the sunshine and ered the Serrania de Ronda mountains. Ahead, across the then swam or read or shopped vast valley of the river Guadiaro, all we could see, in Gaucin for our al fresco lunches made from fresh fish. ust, was the seaside town of meat, fruit and vegetables, Estepona to the east and the accompanied by 52-63 bottles Rock of Gibraltar 30 miles to of wine. After that a siesta,

more reading or swimming. and it was surprising how quickly it was time for the vodka and tonic before setting out for our evening meal.

preading along the top of the mountain, Gaucin, a village of narrow, huddled and whitewashed houses with balconies dripping with geraniums, is a superb base for exploring Andalucia. Although its popula-tion is, at most, 2,000, the village has a daily fish market. a working baker, several small supermarkets, a special market on Saturdays, two decent restaurants and several tapas bars offering ample snacks of

prawns, chicken, ham, arti-chokes and many other Span-

The Mediterranean beaches of Sotogrande and Estepona are only 40 minutes away, Tarifa on the Atlantic coast, the self-styled windsurfing capital of Europe, is easily reached, and Jerez, Seville, Granada and Gibraltar are less than four hours away by car. Golf, riding, walking, wind-surfing, bird-watching are all on offer. We chose to go to Ronda for

our day out, an hour's drive on roads winding through spectacular scenery and passing by several of Spain's legendary small white villages - the pueblos blancos - perched

of the Civil War. There are sides. Seen from the distance, Ronda looked like a city of also plenty of sights to savour. ugly tower blocks. Once withmost notably the sumptious 13th-century church of Santa Maria la Mayor and its in the walls, however, Ronda, set in an amphitheatre of hills, is utterly enchanting — a white, flower-filled Moorish breathtaking Baroque high altar: Santa Naria was origicity of palaces and churches in narrow. cobbled streets, its nally the principal mosque of Ronda. It was converted into a

door cafes and always with Ronda is a city with a

pedestrian area busy with

shoppers and dotted with out-

tumultuous history. Its Tajo, the vertiginous gorge of the river Guadelvin, was where a mob from Malaga threw 512 prisoners of the republicans over the cliff into the river

> more from its fascinating matadors' museum. As a dedicated Francophile, Spain for me last summer was an experiment - would I enjoy any other European country other than France? that became a revelation, especially in how easy it was to escape the over-built ugliness and the crowds of the coast, the main factor that had inhibited me from holidaying

church by Ferdinand the Cath-

olic but still has the original

tury Plaza de Toros, ils second

oldest builring, the Mecca of builfighting and once the play-

ground of El Cordobes. Any

isitor new to the passion for

killing bulls will be surprised

by the size and elegance of the

arena: They can learn still

another insight

into the passions of Spain is offered by the splendid 18th-cen-

minaret as its tower.

from the coast, the crowds disappear. On our journeys space and emptiness that is rare in summer France.

The real revelation was how much cheaper it was to shop and eat out in Spain compared with France (although France may fare better this year now that the exchange rate is heading towards Fr9 to the El). We went out to eat almost every night - on two successive nights to Gaucin's petrol station (where food is served) and then to Gaucin station (at El Colmenar sev-eral miles away across the hills) and dined on salads and fish fresh from the sea off Algegiras for £5 a head, including plenty of wine. Food and drink was equally cheap in

shops and supermarkets. A holiday only for the well-off? Surprisingly not. Seven of us lived like millionaires for £335 each, including flights, for the week. Nine could stay at Las Pilas this summer for £170 each, plus a flight from £143, plus sharing the hire of a car, and still more cheaply in

May and June. Although I love France. after the experience of Gaucin last summer I shall certainly return to Spain.

BRIAN MACARTHUR The author was a guest of

'Indian Subcontinent'

Cox & Kings, the oldest travel company in the world, is delighted to offer limited availability on the following tours:

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(0171-581 0851), has several properties in Andalusia. One week at Las Pilas costs from £1,035 in May and June, rising to £1,745 in July and August, based on nine people sharing. The company will arrange flights to Malaga from £143 return, and car hire from £140 a week.

Street, London SW3 2PR

n retrospect, we probably overreacted to our first

lesson.This was at the hands of the hire-car company part-

timer, whose offer to drive the

first leg of our journey from

Barcelona airport to Gerona we had gladly accepted. We were terrified — the locals

drive fast and close, and

overtake on reliex. But most of

them, we were later relieved to

discover, make allowances for

And you do need four

wheels in Catalonia. So vast

and varied is the region,

embracing the Costa Brava

and all manner of natural.

cultural and historical trea-

repaid a hundredfold in satis-

faction gained. Bicycles can be

rented, but you need legs (and

Catalonia has a mild di-

mate — we travelled in early

June, unseasonally hot in the 80Fs and low 90Fs - and

offers clean beaches and scenic

grandeur (Costa Brava trans-

lates more realistically as

"rugged coast" than "brave

coast?. And being only a 12-

hour drive from Calais or a

two-hour hop from Gatwick,

no wonder Catajonia has at-

tracted generations of British

A few decades ago they

could stay in comfort for a

week for about 150 pesetas.

then equivalent to a local

man's monthly wage. But

since inflation and then reces-

sion began to bite, our contribution to the Catalan coffers

has declined. Many formerly

British-owned villas now be-

long to seasonal occupants

MUNDI COLOR

nerves) of sicel.

bumbling foreign visitors.

Caralan

■ Tips: a car is essential. Few shops or restaurants take credit cards: those that do only take Visa. Even in July, it can be cold at night, so pack sweaters.

■ Eating out: Hotel Nacional, Gaucin — an old, hidden hotel in the centre of Gaucin

motoring

travellers have stayed since the Napoleonic wars (00 34 5215 1029). Los Hermanos at Gaucin station in El Colmenar (00 34 5215 3109).

Bar Pilar, opposite Gaucin petrol station (00 34 5215 1347). La Almuna (00 34 5215 1200), Molina del Santo (00 34 5216 7151). Puerto del Negro (00 34 5215 1239).

■ Reading Lazy days Out in Andalucia, by Jeremy Wayne (Cadogan, £9.99, ISBN I 860 11060 6). South from Granada, by Gerald Brenan (Penguin, £7.99, ISBN 0 140 16700 5). A Rose for Winter, by Laurie Lee (Penguin, £4.99, ISBN 0 140 03319 X).



in Spain before. Once away Lounging with the lizards

mostly from Spain itself. Our villa, a few minutes' vertiginous drive from the coast between the hillton towns of Palafrugell and Begur, near Pals, was in an area considered upmarket and particularpopular with Spanish and European Union politicians.

Opera singers, for some reason, have also gravitated there: José Carreras stays regularly in the seaside village of Tamariu, Montserrat Caballé in nearby Aigua Blava. Other migrant celebrisures, that car hire charges are ties are too numerous to name, we were told, but a trip to Palafrugell market might bring us unexpectedly chin-tochin with Jimmy Hill.

Fortunately for Mr Hill, at any rate, people-spotting was not on our itinerary and Palairugell proved memorable for other reasons. Busy all week but much

expanded on Sundays, its market at first appeared to offer little temptation besides quite pricey lacework, although the atmosphere was enlivened by a one-legged busker strumming gypsy and

flamenco tunes. Then, heading downhill, we reached the market garden section. Revelation! spring onions and beef tomatoes, tubs of black cherries. racks of drying spices, boxes of edible snails. One stall offered a dozen varieties of olive, some the size of golfballs - take your own container and dip in. Another delight was the selected a ring-shaped pastry topped with crystallised fruits from a fabulous range of multicoloured confections.

For non-vegetarian foodies, Catalonia offers ample respite from the ubiquitous paella. For a light snack, try sardines on pan con tomat — thick bread glazed with salt, oil and tomato seeds - or sonos, tiny fish like whitebait which you smother in lemon juice and munch down whole.

you can go the whole hog, as it were, and try gattes — pig's cheeks — which sound repellent but taste delicious. At the splendid Sol Bianc farmhouse restaurant just outside Pals, we followed these with pears in muscatel topped off with a

fiery bitter-orange liqueur

Aswan, on the northernedge of Lake

Nasser, the traveller does more than just observe the life and relics of

Egypt.but in choosing to travelaking

the Nile, is using one of the principal means of transportation for the area.

The one aspect of cruising the Nile

that has changed has been the qual-

ity of the vessels and we have been

ucky to secure cabins on one of the

finest currently in service - the MS

Screnade. The modern and elegan

leatures of the vessel, together with

its musical theme, make it the mus

comfortable and relaxing way to see

the glories of Egypt. The 58 passenger cabins, all with full facilities, feature custom-made fur-

miture and picture windows with spec

tacular views of the Nile while the public rooms are decorated in neo-

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Fiv from London Gatwick to Luxor

which our hosts produced from a mysterious unlabelled bottle. To burn off excess calories on the morning after, golf is the preferred yearround pursuit of many visitors. There are six international courses within an hour's drive of Pals. and golf tourism in this official PGA training area is booming as

The main alternatives are horse-riding, fishing, bird-watching, windsurfing, subaqua (mostly at Estartit) or skiing. With the Pyrenees just a three-hour drive from Barcelona, it is perfectly possible to rise early, ski all day and be back by mightfall. Another solution is walking.

Budding Laurie Lees can cross Spain on foot following a planned route if they so desire,

nature rambles. Inland, hampered by an absence of footpath signs, we made slow but pleasant progress through wheatfields, olive groves, vineyards and woods, admiring the clouds of butterflies and trying to ignore the coto de caza signs.

We assumed these simply meant that trespassers would be prosecuted, but later found out their purpose is to discourage out-of-season hunting. In winter, we were reliably informed, everyone strong enough to level a rifle heads for the thickly wooded hills to blast anything that moves, principally pigeons, foxes, rab-bits and the ultimate prize, wild boar.

One enjoyable short walk lay over the high cliffs between



Sa Riera and Platva de Pals along which can be found the best small beach for miles. A painted sign on the rock proclaims this a platya nudista, although in fact it is a costumes optional cove, partly shaded by the towering cliffs. with fine sand and even a makeshift bar complete with a nude barman, naturally). To gain a new perspective on the coast, explore its caves and discover the tiny coves

Continued on next page

Along the Nile we find a timeless A Special Announcement quietude over which preside the an-THE TIMELESS NILE The Nile is Egypt and Egypt is the Nile' - thus ran the classical wisdom of Herodotus, and in taking a lei-surely cruise to Upper Egypt and



Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Serenade, one of the finest vessels on the Nile

and join the Serenade for a 7-might £75). Return downstream to Luxon cruise. Visit Denderah, Luxor, the and visit the Temple of Karnak. Re-Valley of the Kings and the Temple of turn flight to London Gatwick. Khmum, sail to Edits and Kom Ombo visiting their temples, and on to As-

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September 1.8.15,22,29,685 Supplements - per person Single cabin £225 - Upper decks£135: Abu Simbel (by mad) £75 includes: return air travel, travelers, 7 is accommunication on brand the MS Ser ade, foll heard, excursion programme, loca resentative. Not included: travel insurance nge. All books

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VOYAGES JULES VERNIE. 21 Dorset Square Landon NW1 60G

internet http:

from elsewhere in Europe, nearby pastisseria, where we

bottlenecked entrance

too visible, too vulnerable.

Five minutes before the start it is very, very quiet. The only time the streets of this city are

eyes light up: "Because I love

He likes to run with a friend,

"because then we share the responsibility for those left at

home. But we never say this

Txoco in the arcaded Piaza del

Castillo, in the centre of the

ancient walled city. A bottle of

Pacharan warms the day for

us. Here, in the province of

Navarra, in the Pyrenean

foothills, where the winters are

snowy and cold and the sum-

mers hot and arid, bilberries

flourish on the mountainsides.

From this local fruit and the

liquor of aniseed is brewed the

local speciality, Pacharan. A

lot is home-made and decant-

ed into three-litre containers.

Because of some strange loop-

hole in Spanish law, as long as

the drink goes into three-litre

bottles, tax and liquor duty are

avoided. The tipple is famous

all over Spain but, they say, is

Later we move on to the

best drunk in its home town.

Bodega Sarria in Estafeta Street, the narrow, tunnel-like

street where the bulls run in

summer. As we eat succulent

spicy sausage (chistorra), an excellent black pudding called

Morcilla de Arroz, and Ajoar-

riera, a melting cod and garlic

stew, Gabriel and the young

waiter exchange "pinned

hoasting of their catch as they

spread their arms to show the

The pair look like fishermen

against the wall stories.

width of the bulls' horns.

time, any day", apparently.

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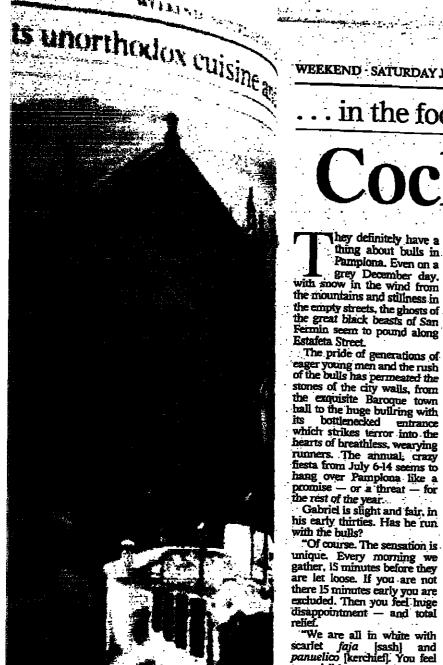
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We are talking in the bar El

aloud."

silent. You can smell fear." Why does he do it? Gabriel's



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الدائلة فالشوا F ... 12 garage 18 19



pure bliss. So instead of spending evenings in audiovisual stupor. we sat on the veranda reading. listening to the night birds or watching geckos devour moths (by day we also saw fieldmice, snakes and two large, acid-green lizards like chameleons, which were al-

treasures - altogether a mag-

nificent memorial to the artist

Back on the coast, we divid-

ed our remaining time be-

tween driving around the

medieval hill villages, most

notably Pals and nearby

Peretalada — less pristine in

its restoration but equally

picture-postcard pretty — and

This was roomy, comfort-

able and sensibly rather than

showily appointed, with typi-

cal darkwood furniture. Less

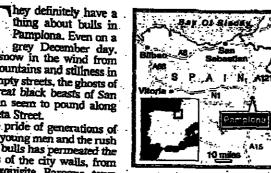
typically it had no radio or

television unless requested:

who died in 1989.

idling at our villa.

most a foot long) Naturally, such indolence has its price. Rental charges lan (quite distinct from Castil-



The local rose, or clarete, is a pleasant, light and dry accompaniment to the highly flavoured home-cooked food.

Paraplona is a city filled with life and legend. Its name comes from the Roman General Pompey, who camped on this hilltop in 74 BC. It became an Episcopal see in the 6th century and the cloisters of the cathedral date from 1277. The citadel is 16th century and rises elegantly, holding in its heart a relaxed and civilised

people. Here a Basque nobleman. who was later canonised Saint Ignatius, founded the Jesuit order, and to this day every third male in Pampiona seems to be named Inaki, Euskera for Ignacio. Here, too, in a less civilised moment, San Fermin (St Firminius) was martyred and dragged around the streets by a bull... which takes us back to La Sociedad Taurina, or the Bull Society, in Piaza del Castillo.

verlooking the street is a balcony. empty now in the winter dusk, but during the second week in July it is packed, day and night; a prized perch for viewing the madness below.

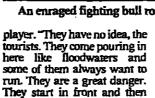
Inside, in the clubrooms and bar, Juan Roncal holds sway. He shows me the gallery of heads of huge bulls killed in the ring. The black Muira bulls are notorious for their ferocity, but there is an unexpected treasure here: the head of a Catriquiri bull, killed in 1889. This breed has since become extinct. Rrown and smaller than the Muiri, it was none the less known as the most dangerous bull in the world.

"He may have been small but he had colossal cojones." Juan says, referring to another part of the animal's anatomy. The last of the Catriquiri bulls looks on with sullen eyes.

A group of senior Pamolonans are playing mus, an obscure Basque card game, at one of the long oak tables. Although their days of running with the bulls are over, they warm to the subject.

"Hemingway ruined San-lermines with that book [Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises]. Now the locals leave the town and go to the little fiestas in the villages to get away from the

Yes," agrees another card



reach the bullring. Then it is our boys, running behind them, who are gored. "We do not understand them, these foreigners. One American ran with his wife and she was injured and went

to hospital. The next day he

ran again.'

tire and trip by the time they

The old man shrugs in despair at such ungallant and incomprehensible behaviour. Don Rafael Lagana introduces himself. He made 30 runs over the years. On the third day of the festival in 1969 he was gored and trampled, but lives to tell the tale, with many reiterations of its truthfulness and kissings of crossed forefingers to negate the doubtings of Juan Roncal be-

hind the bar. Juan watches with the jaundiced eye of a man who probably holds the world record for listening to cock and bull

هكذا من الأصل

.. in the foothills of the Pyrenees the men of Pamplona battle to become heroes worthy of Hemingway

Cock and bull stories of the mad race

When and why did they stop running? One hears of the great Geronimo Echague, who ran in every Santermines for 70 years. "Geronimo wasn't mar-

ried." Heads nod sagely over the card table. "It's not the same once you are married. Your girlfriend wants a hero, a crazy guy. Your wife wants a hreadwinner, alive.'

But even in this haven for reminiscences and, perhaps, a little boasting, the essential humour and honesty of th native Pamplonan is evident.

What was the overriding sensation, season after season, tearing through the echoing streets just ahead of the bulls? Loud laughter echoes round La Sociedad Taurina and they answer with one accord:

KAREN CONSIDINE



An enraged fighting bull rounds a corner as a fallen man tries to take cover during last year's San Fermin fiesta in Pamplona. The race through the streets breeds tall stories of bravery

British Airways and Iberia fly daily to Bilbao. Prices until mid-February are: British Airways (0345 222747) from £104; Iberia (0171-830 0011) from £182.

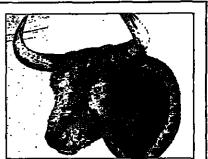
■ P&O Ferries (0990 980980) sails twice weekly from Portsmouth to Bilbao. Standard return fares from January 28. for car and driver, are from £275. Pamplons is about 90 miles from Bilbao using the A68 and Nl. More picturesque but longer is the route taking the A8 past San estian and then the NLI up into Navarra province from Behobia

Where to stay: on the pilgrim's road to Santiago, Pamplona has plenty of hotels and PAMPLONA FACT FILE

B&B accrommodation. There are also three campsites outside the town — packed during Sanfermines. Reading: Death in the Afternoon, by Ernest Hemingway (Arrow, £5.99, ISBN 0 099 909910 3), Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises, by Ernest Hemingway (Arrow, £4.99, ISBN 0 098 990850 6). Michelin Green Guide Spain (£8.99, ISBN 2061523021).

Spanish Tourist Board, 0171-499 0901.

Tourist information centre in Pamplona Duque de Ahumada 3 (00 34 4842 7645).



The head of a bull killed in the ring

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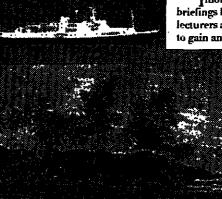
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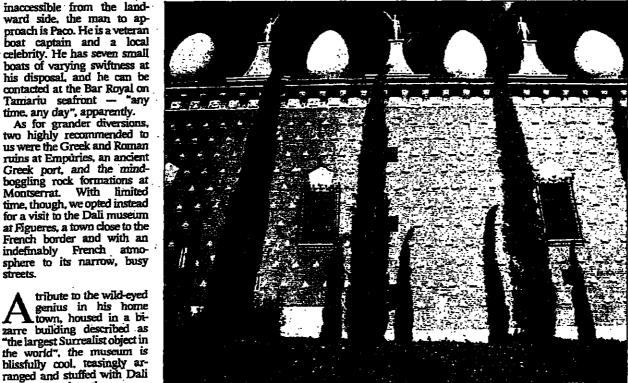
excellent food and a caring and friendly service which is second to none. She is not a cruise vessel in the accepted sense of the word. On board you will not find endless entertainments. floor shows or any of those blush making jollifications



usually conjured up by an entertainments staff. What you will find is a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere aboard a well run vessel which is well suited to the traveller who wishes to learn more about the natural world and history of the region.

Informal after dinner talks and briefings from our distinguished. lecturers and expedition team allow you to gain an additional insight, and whilst ashore our team

will be joined by local experts. Many of the excursions will be undertaken in the ship's fleet of inflatable Zodiacs These sale and adaptable craft allow us access to otherwise unreachable spots. and permit us to explore remote uninhabited places



The Dali museum at Figueres, described as "the largest Surrealist object in the world"

for villas and apartments fall appreciably in the long low season from September to June, rising to between £400 and £2,500 a week in midsummer, with August the most expensive month. There is no shortage of demand, particularly for the more upmarket properties, so early booking is

As for the cost of goods in general, we found prices compared quite favourably with those in Britain -- and if you want a Catalan souvenir, the best buys are probably wine or ceramics. The latter, mostly produced in the town of La Bisbal, come in combinations of traditional nues: deep blue, daffodil, pale green and a rather unfortunate muddy-

When discussing purchases, it helps to smile sweetly and attempt a few words of Cataian Spanish). Until Franco's death in 1975, speaking Catalan in the street was an arrestable offence, so its use now has become a matter of fierce regional pride. The normal greeting, by the way, is bon dia rather than buenos

By the end of a week of

lazing in the sun, loitering in cool churches and sipping cafe con leche in medieval surroundings, we were so thoroughly rested that even the drive back to Barcelona along the autopista (a toll road, so don't part with all your pesetas) passed in a pleasant daze. Had all those suicidal drivers who seemed to surround us on arrival decided to stay at

JIM SOAR ● The author was a guest of PCI Holidays. Flights courtesy of Air

FACT FILE

PCI Holidays,

Bournemouth International Airport, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6SE (01202 591890) specialises in offering properties from apartments to villas. Prices from £175 to £1,145 (low season), £300 to £2,085 (high season) per villa per week.

Air Europa (UK agent ilies to Barcelona from £127 return. British Airways (0345-222 747) and Iberia 0171-830 00 in fly to Barcelona from £104. Reading Barcelona by Robert Hughes (Harvill, £12, ISBN 1860 46096 8). Voices of the Old Sea by £5.99, ISBN 0 330 34561 3L Homage to Catalonia by

E6.09, ISBN 0 140 18231 4).

ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

A VOYAGE FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO THE SEYCHELLES BY WAY OF THE COMORES AND MADAGASCAR ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN STAR 23 March-8 April 1997

THE ITINERARY

DAY I London (Gatwick) - Dar Es Salsam with British Airways, evening departure. DAY 2 Dar Es Salaam Arrive in the late morning and after a brief city tour and lunch embark Caledonian Star and sail.

DAY 3 Zanzibar Here the colourful harbour will be crowded with dhows. Visit this Arab style city with its long narrow streets, bazaurs and houses with intricately carved doorways. DAY 4 At sea DAY 5 Moroni, Grand Comore The main

island of the Comore group is dominated by a jagged volcano. Visit the capital of Moroni DAY 6 Dzaoudzi, Mayotte This steep volcanic island is covered with rain forest Walk to the crater lake and spend time in the charming capital.

DAY 7 Majunga, Madagasgar Drive to Ampijoroa Naure Reserve, an important tract of western dry forest habitat that remains untouched and contains a wealth of unique Sora and fauna.

DAY 8 Nosy Tanikely, Madagascar Landing by Zediac we will explore this tiny island which is an officially protected marine reserve. Wonderful snorkelling and swimming and for the walkers lovely beaches and tide pools.

DAY 9 Diego Suarez, Madagascar At daybreak we will enter the dramatic Diego Suarez harbour and make our way to the Malagasy rain forest at the Mount Amber

DAY 10 Assumption, Outer Seychelles Our first call in the Seychelles will be at the beautiful island of Assumption. There will be time for swimming and snorkelling or a beach walk.

DAY II Aldabra Go ashore by Zodiac to the islands referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as one of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world! Aldabra is unique and we are privileged visitors by kind permissio of the Seychelles government. See the varied birdlife, sea life and onshore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions

DAY 12 At sea

DAY 13 Descoches Another remote and heavenly paradise island awaits. Swim and snorkel in the turrupise waters around the reef or join one of the leaders on a walk through the woodlands.

DAY 14 Aride-La Curieuse Once a plantation island, Aride is now owned by the Royal Society of Nature Conservation and is one of the most important breeding grounds for seabirds in the Indian Ocean. Relax on La Curieuse in the afternoon.

DAY 15 Praslin The 'Forgotten Eden' the second largest Seychelles island is a wonderful place. Best known for its Valler de Mai, one of only two places in the world where the botanical rarity, the coco de mer grows wild. Here in the valley we will explore this exotic palm forest. La Digue surely one of the most beautiful tropical islands in the world. Explore on foot, bieyele and occart.

DAY 16 Make Arrive in the morning and disembark, Island drive and transfer to a first class hotel for day use rooms until our evening departure by British Airways to

DAY 17 London (Gatwick) Arrive in the

PRICES PER PERSON

Оссиралсу	Occupancy	
£3595	£4295	
£3895	£4545	
£4260	£4845	
\$4595	£5195	
£4795	£5450	
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Price includes: Economy class return air travel, 14 nights aboard the Caledonian Star on full board, reions, port laves, day use rooms in Mahe. transfers, UK departure tax, gratnities to guides, ivers, porters and Caledonian Star crew, services of Guest Speakers and Expedition Staff, Not included: Travel insurance. Tanzania vira.

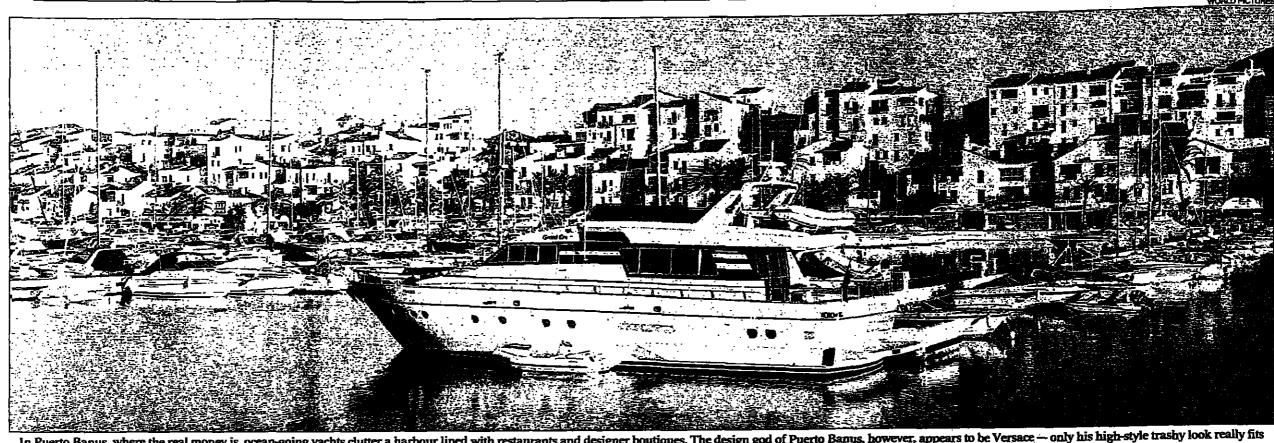
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Spain: More Versace than soggy chips on the Costa del Sol; plus fiestas from a hotel balcony up the coast



In Puerto Banus, where the real money is, ocean-going yachts clutter a harbour lined with restaurants and designer boutiques. The design god of Puerto Banus, however, appears to be Versace — only his high-style trashy look really fits

Marbella's embarrassment of riches

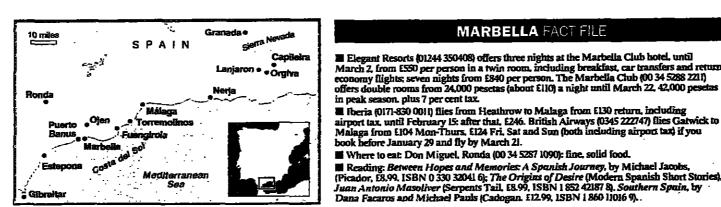
MARBELLA FACT FILE

certain ring when spoken by the British. On the downside, it evokes the furious and trashy package colonisation of the southern Spanish coast that has been going on since the 1950s. On the upside, it suggests a certain ease - reasonably close to home, guaranteed weather, beaches, good, affordable wine and, with care, exciting food. Plus, if you stray a few miles inland, there is the real Spain of blinding white mountain villages and herce, dark, lascinating

The good news is the upside is winning. The Spanish are tiring of the lager-and-vomit image and want to take their resorts upmarket. This is not that difficult. The ghastly holiday ribbon devel-opments of Torremolinos and Fuengirola are easily avoided; the vertiginous joys of Ojen and Ronda are gratifyingly close.

The trick is to get the best of the sun, sand and Rioja and keep the real Spain in focus. If you are of an ironic disposition you can also take in the spectacle of the supremely bad taste wealth that dots the coastline from Puerto Banus to Marbella.

But first the basics. West of centres of grot — the coastal scene



takes on a Californian air of lowrise, fairly tasteful architectural extravagance. There are pockets of high life consumption - expensive car showrooms and so on that indicate you are well away from the world of the soggy chip. This is clearly the place to stay. To be precise the Marbella Club is clearly

Founded in the 1950s by Prince Alfonso de Hohenlohe, the club is so self-consciously not Fuengirola that you suspect the front desk could not even give you directions as to how to get there.

The club occupies a deep site that runs down from the road to the sea. Suites and rooms are entangled in Marbella - ie, away from the the thick vegetation and are decorated in the cool, stylish, Mediterra-

nean way. At the sea end this becomes a rather loopy but visually successful "Beach Club". The beach is, of course, perfect and there are two good pools.

The bar and restaurant at night have a startling social dimension. Everything food and drinkwise is as good as you would expect - the prices are high - but what makes an evening there worthwhile is trying to figure out the nuances of Spanish society. Big-time aristos come here to dine and the waiters there is no other word for it grovel. This can result in moments of iffy service, but it's worth it for

So that's the beach-food-wine side of things settled. Finding the real Spain outside is easy. Ojen is a short drive, Ronda slightly longer. Ojen is the Spanish mountain village which all other Spanish mountain villages aspire to be. Gleaming white, it was clearly built by madmen who wanted to find the most impossible place to erect a village. The streets slope and swoop. And, amazingly considering you are so near the teeming coast, the people stare at you as if you were exotic. Clearly even these few miles of mountain roads are enough to keep the heavily-bellied Brits away. Eat rapas here. They

you will manage. Ronda is a full-blooded tourist destination with its stunning gorge - spanned by three bridges, one Roman, one Moorish and one 18th-

don't speak a word of English, but

century - dividing the town. The streets are lined with the usual tourist stuff, but Ronda, being so Eat lunch at Don Miguel, on the north side of the gorge.

ou could go on with the real Spain — the whole of Andalusia is spread before you - but, after Ronda, the driving distances start to be-come a little serious and you might start to feel anxious at being so far

One slightly mad excursion you night try is not into the real Spain, but into the real Britain - Gibraltar. This is a longish but straightforward drive from the Marbella Club and it's definitely worth it for



connoisseurs of the weird. Crossing over from the wasteland of La Linea is hard work — the Spanish don't like this border and they let you know it by making you queue. Here is Marks & Spencer, here is Pizzaland and here are those Georgian buildings. You have to do this if only to feel the sheer strangeness of a place like this so close to Ronda or Ojen. Cultures in improbable

But I promise the ironist will want to go to Puerto Banus. This is where the real money, the high liquidity goes. There is no history here, only the constant pressure of the present. Yachts clutter a harbour lined with restaurants and designer boutiques. These are filled with all the usual labels, but, on

balance, the design god of Puerto Banus appears to be Versace only his high-style trashy look really fits. And the place is so hermetic, so sealed off from the outside world that the shops and the people have become one. Look at the dummies in the shops and

the people: they are the same.

Consumption has become so smooth so quick here that the people and the products are becoming one. Inevitably a mail, a surprisingly good one, has sprung up a couple of hundred yards behind the harbour. At night there are discos, probably hundreds of them, but my irony deserted me and I didn't stay to find out.

But what we have here is a more dynamic and varied holiday that you might have imagined from that resonant name "Marbella". The strange clashes of culture - tacky. wonderful or weird - are exciting. You can stare at the villagers in Ojen or the Eurotrash in Puerto Banus for hours. Or, of course, you can stare at your increasingly empurpled English skin.

Try it, but stay at the club as a precaution. However crunchy the cultural mix out there, you want to get back to authentic luxury.

FACT FILE

Iberia (0171-830 001)

flies from Heathrow to Malaga from £130 return until Feb 15. British Airways (0345 222747) flies Gatwick to Malaga

Hotel Plaza Cavana, Plaza

Malaga (00 34 5252 4000). Double room from

Europa, I Pso, Balcon de

Europa, 29780 Nerja, Malaga (00 34 5252 0800).

Double room from £48.

■ Reading: Andalucia — the Rough Guide, by

Geoff Garvey and Mark Ellingham (£8.99, ISBN 1 858 28094 X); Cadogan Guide to Southern Spain,

by Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls (E10.99 ISBN

0 947 75460 lk Twelve Walks Around Nerja and

Frigiliana by Elma and Denis Thompson (available

locally).

Cavana. 10 Apartado

£44. Hotel Balcon de

from E104.

CHRISTENA APPLEYARD • The authorwas a guest of

Never say die before you've taken that trip to Nerja

I would go to my maker L before I went to the Costa del Sol. But after a summer of sickness — our household at times was like Casualty - we were in need of out-of-season sun and I remembered that my sister had long enthused about the town of Nerja, a far cry, she said, from the Costa del Sol of popular myth.

We arrived - as one does on bucket shop flights - in the small hours, and found ourselves in a charming, pastelcoloured hotel overlooking the town square. The hotel garage was deep in the bowels of the earth. We drove the car onto

its way down alarmingly. In its heyday, it must have been the wonder of southern Spain.

I know not who saved Neria from the fate that befell much of the Costa del Sol. but saved was. It is helped by its location, sitting above a cliff, which protects its coves and beaches from development. And someone had the wit to ban high-rise buildings. The streets echo to British (and German) voices, but it remains a small Spanish town enjoyed by local people. Its chief feature is the Balcon de Europa. a platform jutting Mediterranean.

Palm-lined, it could have been designed by nature with strolling in mind. Behind lie narrow streets.

where authentic tapas bars we had the finest fish meals of our lives at El Chispa, a large helping of anchovies and sea snails, orange clams and tiny red mullet — coexist with pubs showing TV soccer.

One night, guided by a local ex-pat, we walked west towards the sunset, and cut inland to an unprepossessing restaurant. El Venta Miguel, where we drank potent Jumilla wire and ate stewed rabbit. Aithough it was on the coast road, on our own we

VISTATIOND

CUNARD

would not have given the building a second glance.

I had been told to walk for my health. Most days we divided between an exploration of the hills behind Nerja and a few hours on a beach. Elma Thompson, an exiled Mancunian, and her late husband, Denis, have written guides to local walks. The Thompsons are no Wainwrights, but the books exude a feisty defiance of landowners who try to block rights of way and take one up hidden valleys and through avocado-laden groves past braying donkeys.

We walked the two miles to the Nerja Caves, which had been rather pooh-poohed by some guidebooks as "Disney-fied". They proved to be a stunning natural phenomenon - a great underground cathedral. Only discovered in 1959 ("just in time for the tourist boom", as one cynic observed), they stretch for three kilometres, though only one is presently open to the

Two Moorish villages -Frigiliana and Competa - lie the hills above Nerja. Frigiliana is such a jewel of bourgainvillea-decked streets that it seems unreal: we felt we had wandered onto an opera set. Resisting, though only just, the enticing smell of barbecued lamb wafting from the Garden Bar, we ate at El Mirador, an open-air café with a view across the village roots. where the cheerful proprietor offered us an almond liqueur on the house.

ompeta has a fine square in front of its ✓ ioth-century barroque church and covered market which sold rabbit, fish and gleaming fruit. The church had electric votive candles the more money you put in. the more bulbs you illuminated - and the most lifelike representations of the Holy Family I have ever seen. They wore Spanish carnival

At a café table in the square we glimpsed a group of English people who looked like denizens of the Costa del Crime". The main man was archetypal east London. and regard com with gold



Frigiliana, with its flower-decked streets, is so pretty that it feels like an opera set

chains: he had cropped grey hair and spoke good Spanish; the group swapped jokes about "keeping things well locked up", drank beer from the bottle and, when we returned from our walk, had progressed noisily to G&Ts.

Our most ambitious trip was to the Sierra Nevada, the mountains that run between the coast and Granada (we chickened out of the queuing we heard was inevitable when visiting the Alhambra). Stopping first at the spa town of Lanjaron, we walked into the

hills. A false start took us up a river bed, from which we only escaped by climbing a creaky iron ladder up an abandoned dam. My stock as an expedition leader never recovered.

Above Orgiva twisting roads lead to three villages in the High Alpujarras: the top one, Capileira, is at 4,000 feet. Snowy peaks reached up to a deep blue sky, scarlet pimientos hung to dry outside the whitewashed cottages. The Moorish influence is strong. Roofs of chestnut beams are overlaid with canes and flat

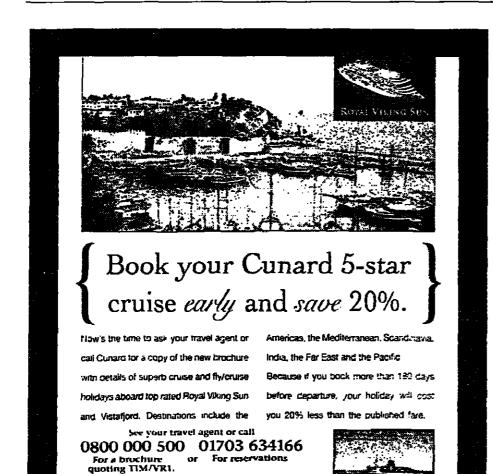
stones, onto which grey mica is spread. The technique is Berber and is also found in the

Rif mountains in Morocco.

During our stay, Nerja celebrated a four-day fair. Traffic was banned, and the chainsaw buzz of mopeds gave way to the explosion of rockets. Gigantic fairground machines. which seemed to rocket riders to the stars, were set up, and music played that must have been audible in north Africa. The women wore traditional dress, and there were daily parades. Our hotel room bal-

conv came into its own. Rioia in hand, we watched the pageant unfold beneath us. Spain fulfilled the promise of the brochures. The sun shone every day, and the tempera-ture was 75F. Our walks and daily couple of hours on Burriana beach gave us healthy tans. The trip was the cure we needed and it banished our deep-rooted prejudice against southern Spain. I am determined to return

before I meet my maker. ROBERT CHESSHYRE



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WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 27 LASTAGE

(a) A toll payable by traders attending fairs and markets. From the medieval Latin lestagium. The word also means the ballast of a ship, a payment to load a ship, an impost levied on the catch of herrings and finally it is a word for

rubbish. **MEDIAMNE**

(c) An island in the middle of a river. Dodgily from the Latin, medius, middle and amnis, river. Diverse Armelettes breaking out of the two streames and making

MOSCHIFEROUS (c) Bearing or producing musk. From the medieval Latin.

mosch-us. Hence come the moschiferous glands of the COLLOP

(a) A dish made of beaten meat, a steak. The word can also mean an egg fried on bacon afterwards called collops and eggs. "I haue no salt Bacon, Ne no Cokeneyes, bi Crist Colopus to maken . . . bacon and colhoppes."

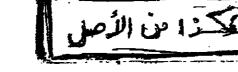
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Hungary: The contrary pleasures of Budapest and exploring the ancient cities of the Danube by boat

You say goodbye and I say hello



dapest. Start with the language, which any you ever learnt. In Hun-Whereas "szia" is pronounced "see-ya" and means

Magyar manage first, and the penchant for writing the sender's address at the bottom left of a sheet of paper, then you will have begun to understand some of the contrary pleasures of a trip to Budapest.

Perhaps this feeling you get you get the idea. When you discover the

being somewhere between the familiar and the foreign has to do with the city's location at the edge of western Europe. Csepel Island in the middle of the Danube, just south of Budapest proper, has been pinpointed as the exact ographical centre of Europe. Like Greenwich and its hemispheres, Budapest straddles the two halves of the continent.

The spires and turrets of Castle Hill in Buda on the Danube's bank look east towards the Great Plains, while much flatter Pest faces the hilly west, where the foothills of the Alps begin. The Dandivides the two cities. Once quite separate settlements, maintain their distinct characters, despite the eight bridges which now join them. Buda-pest is the united city, which helpfully for the visitor is divided up again, this time nto 23 districts or kerulet.

terway. Not much in Buda that goes for its castle too, the Hapsburgs, though much of it failed to survive even the century once the Red

Your tour of over-the-top Gothic of the Matyas Church, and the ridiculous wedding cake folly that is the Fisherman's Bastion. The atmosphere, however, is harmony itself. Stroll the castle ramparts in the early evening in the company of promenading Budapesters and their dogs, and enjoy the tranquillity.

ram dar 📆.

3.5

Buda's other lofty viewpoint is Gellert Hill, crowned by a Hapsburg fort, the Citadella, and the Liberation monument, visible right across the city. The views here are stupendous too. Down at the base of the hill is the Gellert Hotel. Its turn-of-the-century façade is worth seeing but what you really come here for is the spa baths. Thermal pools lead off the beautiful Art Nouveau main chamber, where you can swim under a domed roof surrounded by Ionic columns.

HUNGARY

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CZECH

REPUBLIC



also take in the riotous neo. In the summer the entry price of 600 forints (E3) includes admission to the outdoor pools and sun terraces.

After your swim, time for some refreshment. Like most modern European cities, Budapest is packed with restaurants and bars, serving cuisine of all varieties, giving the lie to the notion that eastern Europe is all dumplings and sauerkraut. With a good guide book, eating out can be fun and cheap. Even our vegetari-

an friends didn't go hungry. Our favourite spots were Marxim Pizza, a backstreet joint packed with communist kitsch and such delights as Gulag Pizza and Pizza à la Anarchismo, and for a slightly more authentic experience, a wonderful old artists' club in Erzsebetvaros District VII, the

Jewish quarter. And so to Pest. Flat yes,

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without the green hills of its western neighbour, but cross the Danube and you are in the modern heart of the city. Here trams, buses, underground trains and trolley buses queue up to whisk you about for 50 forint (25p) a time, or grab a map and walk. Two more huge buildings of dubious architectural provenance strike you at once. The neo-Gothic Parliament building dominates the Pest bank of the Danube and though faintly reminiscent of Westminster, it

has a style all its own. We also visited Budapest's largest church, the Basilica of St Istvan — the tranquillity of its interior undisturbed by Madonna who had been re-fused permission to film inside the previous day. Its greatest attraction is the holy relic in a chapel at the back - the Hand of St Istvan. Its original owner

was the saintly 11th-century king of Hungary, revered by the nation to this day. Put 40 forints in the slot, and a casket lights up to reveal the holy fist inside. After St Istvan's death in 1038, the hand was carried off to Vienna via Transylvania and Dubrovnik, before it was rightfully returned to Budapest in 1774. The Nazis also pinched it for a while.

nother building to see in Pest is the Central Synagogue. Built in the last century for Budapest's once sizeable Jewish community, this is the second largest synagogue in the world after the one in New York, Not unlike Westminster Cathedral in style, it is being beautifully restored with the help of the Tony Curtis Foundation (his parents were Hungarian emigres).

Although the Jewish population is more significant than in other eastern European cities. Imre Varga's beautiful weeping willow Holocaust memorial is a reminder of the fate that befell many here.

When you tire of pounding the streets or strap-hanging on the tram, take a river trip, and get a barge's eye view of Buda and Pest from the Danube. In the summer, boat trips will take you north to the ancient

cities of the scenic Danube Bend, Szentendre, Visegrad and the ancient capital, Esztergom. Its castle was founded in the 10th century by Prince Geza, father of St Istvan, who entertained Barbarossa here.

But it is Esztergom's Basilica which is its main attraction. Claimed to be the fifth largest church in the world, it dominates the Hungarian bank of the Danube, and even more stunning river views can be had from the tower across to Slovakia on the north side. Esztergom makes an excellent day trip from Budapest.

Other distracting locations outside the capital include pretty Hungarian country towns such as Vac (45 minutes by train), and Eger, in the heart of one of Hungary's most important wine growing areas (two hours by train). Forget Bull's Blood (Egri Bikaver) on which the region's fame chiefly rests. Hungarian white wines must be some of Europe's most underrated. Visit Eger's medieval castle and its cellars where you can sample such little-known delights as Egri Leanyka, a delicious appley white wine which costs 40fts (20p) a glass. Aside from Eger, my favour-

ite out-of-town location is the Rest Home for Retired Communist Statues in a southern

borpark. Here you find Lenin and other heroes of the former eastern bloc who used to stand proudly atop grand plinths. lt's a bizarre but brilliant place. Try to resist the temptation to take silly photographs your companions (we couldn't), and buy a tin containing the Last Breath of Communism as a kitsch souvenir. Back in Budapest for last-minute shopping, you

SLEEP OVER

ARRIVING AT 7am

should visit the Nagy Vasaresarnok or Great Market Hall in Pest, three floors packed to the ceiling with Hungarian produce—fresh paprika, crisp white embroidery, wine and wooden toys. CDs are good value too, and Bartok and Kodaly the most appropriate composers to take back if you can't hack the many gypsy violin combinations on offer. With its unbeatable setting, Budapest is one of the most

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rewarding cities in Europe. Not as grand as Vienna, nor as beautiful as Prague, it never theless has a bustling character all its own. Both Buda and Pest are packed with landmarks, museums and interesting corners which beckon the visitor, with too little time to spare. I hope to return soon.

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BUDAPEST FACT FILE

■ The author travelled to Budapest with New Millennium Holidays, 20 High Street, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3TB (0121-711 2232). A tenday coach trip, including seven nights' B&B in Budapest, costs from

■ British Airways (0345 22211) flights to Budapest cost from £189 return (booked before the end of January). Lufthansa (0345 737747) flights to Budapest cost from £204 return.

Where to stay: a double room at the Hotel Gellert (00 36) 185 2200) costs from £96 per night. The Budapest Marriott Hotel (00 361 266 7000) has double rooms from £85 per night. Beke Radisson Hotel (00 361 132 3300) has double rooms from £110 per night.

Reading: A Hungarian Romance, by Agnes Hankiss (Readers International, £6.99, ISBN 0 930 52382 2). The Undefeated, by George Horvath (Eland, £8.99, ISBN 0 907 87122 4). Hungary, by Dan Richurdson & Charles Hebbert (Rough Guides, £8.99, 1SBN 1858 281237). ■ Hungarian Tourist Information Service, 0891 171200. Tourist office in Budapest, 00 361 117 9800.

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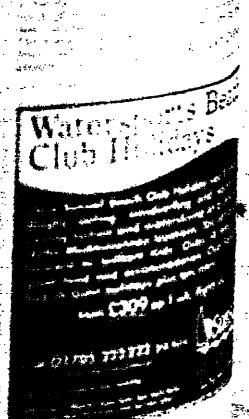
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Vietnam: Markets are the lifeblood of towns, teeming with the vibrant colours and sounds of peasant life

This little piggy just squealed

he pig squealed, once, twice, three times as the two men lifted its squirming pink body by its tied legs and stuffed it into a wicker basket attached to the carrier of a moped. Soon all three were phutphutting off along the potholed road. Whether it liked it or not, this little porker was off to market.

In the Mekong Delta, everything that can be eaten is. The region is Vietnam's ricebowl, fruitbasket and butcher, and every creature and plant that can be grown in the flat, vivid-green miles of paddies, deltas and ponds is trussed up and transported by bike, moped, cyclo, bus, boat or foot on thronging dirt roads to the nearest town, where it will be picked up, haggled over and eventually stuffed into a plastic bag and taken home for dinner.

Markets are the lifeblood of every Vietnamese town and, apart from the occasional Buddhist or Co Dai temple, church or mosque, they are the main source of entertainment for visitors. It is here that one encounters the everyday Vietnam: where peasant life is shrieked in every colour and sound.

The market at Vinh Long was my first. At 7am on the riverfront, amid the spluttering of boats moored alongside wooden, thatched riverhouses, the day is exploding in a mix of garish colours, diesel fumes, animal squeals and rotting fish bones. Tiny, lean peasants in trouser suits and bamboo hats noisily unload produce, exchange dirty wads of dong, and stream into

the covered market area.

The pineapple boat pulls up, piled two-men high with fruit. Buyers stream forward, shouting, gesticulating, bargaining: pushing large sacks forward for their produce to be loaded into. Street children pull on armsleeves, begging buyers to buy something from one of their dirty little boxes: chewing gum, sticky breadsticks covered in sesame seeds, banana chips wrapped in grimy plastic, cashew nuts in banknote bags.



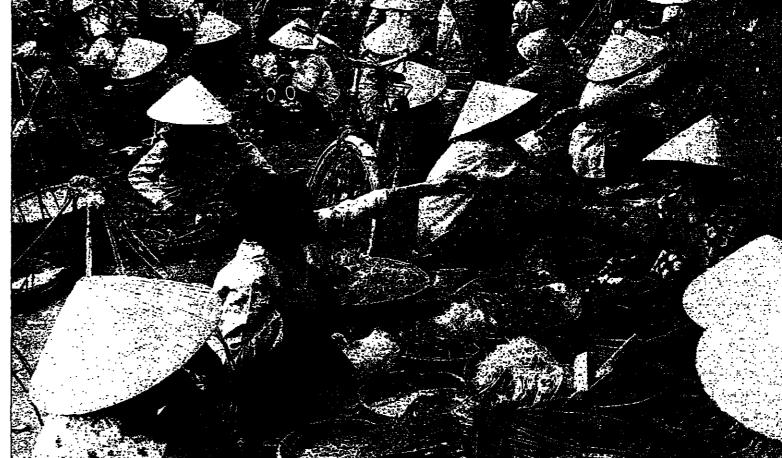
Women yell to each other across the mayhem. Vendors with poles over their shoulders bearing baskets of drinks, bowls of soup and noodles, give their high-pitched cry. There is only one escape from the heat, the jostling: to the indoor market.

Under cover, in the cooler but cloyingly meat-sweet air, the business of the day is under way. Exposed by the filtered streams of light pouring through the carvas and patchy thatch, an area about 200sq ft comes into view, sectioned off into areas of produce. To the left is bucket row: beside it teapot alley: then sandal street, biscuit lane; china town. Stalls are ordered and stacked high, the produce fanned, wiped, trimmed, polished. "Madam, madam," is the cry. "Very pretty. Very nice. Where you from?"

ood is central to the market:
row upon row of salted,
dried fish — stained red,
curried, saffron'd — with
stinky fins, tails and scales. Tables
are lined with designer-white
ducks: beaks open, gasping for air,
yellow legs bound with raffia.

Off to the right our piggle and its pals are snuffling through discarded vegetable matter. A table above them sports a single pig's head, and women stand by, staring longingly, counting money.

At the poultry stall dozens of women argue over prices, picking up mangy cockerels by the feet,



Local markets, with their noisy haggling, are the main source of entertainment for visitors, apart from the occasional Buddhist or Co Dai temple, church or mosque

ruffling through their feathers, prodding and checking for unwanted insect life, then plunging the purchases head-first into large checked woven-plastic shopping bags. Baby ducklings huddling by the hundreds in wide shallow wicker baskets cower, evaling the sun as the sellers run their hands through their masses, feeling for fatalities, and ticks.

I wander aimlessly, eyes scouring the stalls as new colours flash by: as children run up, laughing and squealing, pulling hairs on my arms (very few Vietnamese have visible body hair). Then I head for the streets and an iced-coffee as the market odour penetrates my clothes, nostrils and brain.

On a rickety metal chair beneath a street cafe umbrella, I survey my purchases with satisfaction: one pair of wooden-soled flip-flops (£3), packet of cashew nuts (50p), bag of dried banana chips (30p), one steamboat (a tin saucepan for cooking fish soup with under-pan space for hot coals, £2.50), a newspaper extolling the virtues of American investment (30p), a clay plantholder painted with the ducks I had just witnessed going from hills a bas to act (52).

bike to bag to pot (£2).

Then it is off into another market: the cyclo waits while I perform my final haggling act, before a lean-limbed cyclist helps me up into his magical machine and whizzes me back to the western pleasures of a room of my own. And there I sit, reflecting on a good morning's shopping, without the shouts of a Vietnamese market.

Imaginative Traveller

LISA GRAINGER

The author was a guest of the

■ The Imaginative Traveller, 14 Barley Mow Passage, Chiswick, London W4 4PH (0181-742 8612; brochures, 0541

(0181-742 8612; brochures, 0541 551163) offers a seven-day tour of the Mekong Delta for £280 including all internal transport (except cycle hire), basic hotels with bathroom, and English-speaking guide. Food: about £40.

Flights from Heathrow to He Chi Minh City (Saigon) by Thai Airways (0171-499 9113) cost from £655 return.

■ Tours start in Ho Chi
Minh City: recommended sites
include the War Crimes
Museum (formerly known as the
Museum of American War
Crimes); Reunification Palace,
on which the North

VIETNAM FACT FILE

Vietnamese raised their flag in April 1975, the French-built Art Museum, which houses works from revolutionary murals to contemporary Impressionist-style pieces, and the two main markets, Ben Thanh and Binh Tay. From Ho Chi Minh City, minibus tours of the delta can take in the Cu Chi tunnels, the market town of Vinh Long, a river trip to an orchid farm and fish factory, a few days exploring the temples and markets of the fishing towns of Rach Gia and Hon Chong, and a trip inland to

Chau Doc, about 45 miles from

the Cambodian border. The ...

final stop, before heading back to Ho Chi Minh City, is the seaside resort of Vung Tau, with its huge fleet of fishing boats, reasonably clean beaches and seafood.

■ Visas can be arranged by The Imaginative Traveller. ■ Malaria tablets are essential; see your GP.

Reading: The Quiet American, by Graham Greene (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 14018 500 3). A Bright Shining Lie, by Neil Shechan (Pan, £10, ISBN 0 330 31304 5). River of Time, by Jon Swain (Mandarin, £6.99, ISBN 0 749 32020 6). Vietnam (Rough Guides, £9.99, ISBN 1 858 28191 1).

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The Borders: The bloody past of the feuding Scots and English family tribes is being relived after 400 years

On the trail of the murderous reivers



menious event in Newcastleton over the past 30 years was the night that villagers held up the train south on the Edinburgh to Carlisle route in anuary 1969, they staged a rotest at the level crossing.

A young David Steel, then the MP for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, was travelling on the sleeper and helped to smooth things over. The train went on its way two hours late.

After that eruption, the 18thcentury village returned to quiet anonymity. But several hundred years previously this remote area of southern Scotland was home to some of the most lawless families in the whole of Europe. They were collectively known as the reivers, the name probably deriv-ing from the old English word reafian (deprive, plunder). And today visitors to the area are being invited to follow

Liddesdale, where many reivers lived, was part of a region which took the full force of two warring nations vho became so accustomed to death and destruction that they thought nothing of inflict-

Refvers were not confined to ing and the burning of homes was endemic throughout the border country and only with the union of the crowns in 1603 did it start to die out. It had lasted for 300 years.

Ore Creek Day

For Best the Mis

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aled to find on

The word blackmail - the paying of protection money -s the reivers' legacy to the English language (greenmail was then the name given to agricultural rent). Borderers also knew what it was like to be bereaved (be reived).
"The curious thing," says

George MacDonald Fraser, who wrote the authoritative book on the reivers. The Steel Bonnets, "was that reiving was a systematic and accepted way of life for those living on the frontier, even in peacetime. Reivers came from every social class and most of them were ordinary members of the

community." Rerving was not always a smallscale affair. William Armstrong of Kimmont -'Kinmont Willie" — often raidIn 1593 he forayed into Engsome £300 of spoil.

in the early part of the 16th century it was reckoned that the Armstrones - "the most feared and dangerous riding clan on the whole frontier Mr Fraser says — could put 3,000 men into the saddle.

The heartland of reiver country is an area running about 40 miles to the north

Drive nine miles west from desolation row feels like. No prizes for guessing that this is where the reivers used to hide their stolen cattle.

a CD-Rom called in Search of the Border Reivers.

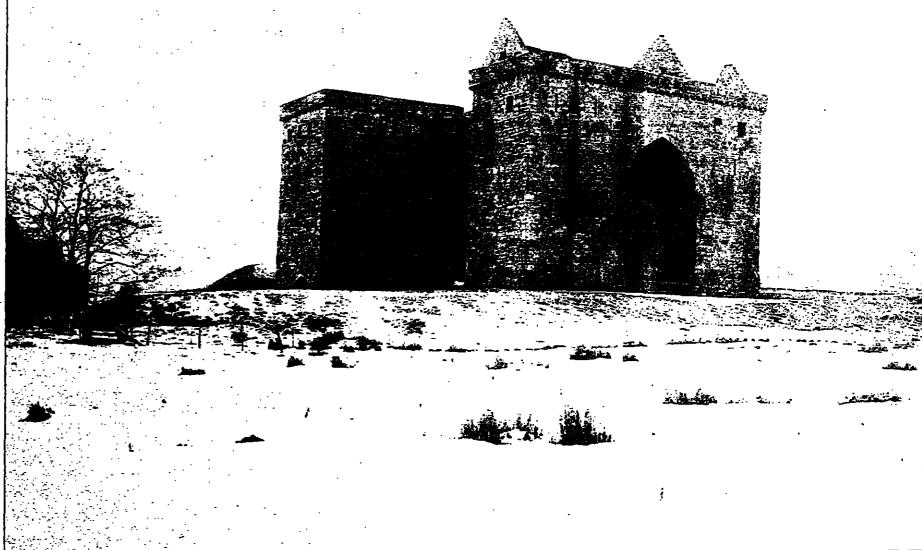
At Tullie House are the records of 77 reiver surnames. such as Armstrong, Bell, Charlton, Dacre, Elliot, Graham, Maxwell, Nixon, Robson and Scott. If your name is among them, you can have Unfortunately, this service came too late for the former American president Richard Nixon, but Mr Fraser writes in his book: "It is difficult to think of any face that would fit better under a steel bonnet."

and northeast of Carlisle, where the terrain is often as wild now - and certainly as magnificent — as it was then. Newcastleton to Langholm

If you want a short introduction to these gangster families. Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle, whose emblem is a number of reivers on horseback, has a tenminute audio-visual presentation. From February it will sell

ust across from Tullie House lies impressive Carlisle Castle which, in its time, was headquarters of the Warden of the West March, the border country in reiving days having a West, Middle and East March on each side of the border. The warden's job in those areas was to keep law and order. though some were gamekeepers turned poachers.

The wardens' garrisons appear in a number of places. If you drive east 11 miles from Carhisle on the Ao9 and turn eft to Lanercost you will pass Naworth Castle, one such stronghold. The castle can be opened to groups of 15 or more by prior arrangement, but



Hermitage Castle, the principal fortress of Liddesdale, is a foreboding presence in an unforgiving land, epitomising the savagery and bleakness of 15th and 16th-century border life

English West March and four miles north of Lanercost on the way to Bewcastle, is not open to the public. Askerton with its two pele (fortified) towers served a similar function to Naworth and is well

Lanercost has a delightful, 12th-century priory. Part of it is in ruins but the nave of the old church is still used for worship. In the old days, Lanercost was a regular fix ture for Scottish armies but today the only danger seems to come from cattle which have a

taste for car mirrors. West March fort you are crossing some of the favoured reiving routes from Liddesdale into the Tyne valley. More reivers probably passed this way 400 years ago than

Turn left at Bewcastle and. on a narrow road, head towards Kershopefoot, a few miles to the northwest. Just by the bridge, where Kershope Burn meets the Liddel Water, is a former "place of truce", where Wardens of the March on both sides of the border held periodic meetings to try to sort out the grievances of people plagued by reiving. Today only the babble of water breaks the silence.

Three miles along the B6357 is Newcastleton which, until this year, was the home of the Clan Armstrong Trust centre, a one-room museum of the said family with archives, genealogical tables, replica armour and pictures of famous Armstrongs, including Nell,

The centre will re-open in spring at Langholm. If there is one fortress which

pitomises the savagery and bleakness of 15th and 16thcentury border life it is Hermitage Castle, a foreboding ence in an unforgiving land. Even as a partial ruin it sets the imagination racing.

The present building was complete by 1400 and for 200 years was the principal fortress of Liddesdale. It acted both as obstacle to English armies and as a base from which Scottish kings could control the reiving husband of Mary Queen of Scots, lived here as lieutenant of the Marches in Scotland.

Head west for eight miles along a narrow road to the A7 and you are once again in splendid and hilly isolation. Turn south along the A7 and make for Langholm and then Canonbie, where the Riverside Inn is an excellent place to eat, drink or stay.

From the Canonbie bypass you can spot Hollows Tower sometimes referred to as Gilnockie Tower - which, like Smailholm near Kelso and Aikwood near ·Selkirk, are fortified towers, other reminders of a turbulent past.

Canonbie is at the eastern end of the Scots Dyke, a ditch three and a half miles long which marks the border between England and Scotland in what was a narrow area of country called the Debateable Land because its ownership was disputed and neither England or Scotland had jurisdic-

tion. Reivers loved that. Debateable Lands is also the title of a television series on the reivers which Eric Robson. the chairman of Gardener's Newcastleton, is producing for Border Television to be shown later this year.

The Carlisle visitor centre will soon have lists of reiving sites - fortified towers, places of truce, cemeteries and monuments — many of which will be opened to the public. By the end of the year, you

should be able to follow reiver trails both south and north of the border. Reiver country will be on the map again.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

REIVER COUNTRY FACT FILE

(01*22*8 34781), open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm, £3.50, children and concessions £2.50.

Carlisle Castle (0)1228 591922), open daily 10am-4pm (until mid-Mar). £2.50, cones EL90, children £1.30. Naworth Castle (016977 3229), open for groups of 15

or more by arrangemen ■ Hermitage Castle (01327 376222), closed until the end 9.30am-6.30pm, Sun 2-6.30pm. £1.50, concs £1, children 75p.

Riverside Inn, Canonbie (013873 71512), double rooms (B&B) from £75. Closed last

two weeks in Feb. ■ Smailholm Tower is closed until end Mar, then open Mon-Sat 9.30am-.30pm, Sun 2-6.30pm.

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£1.50, concs £1, children 75p. Hollows Tower (013873 71876), open by

Border reivers in Tom Scott's Auld Wat O'Harden

children £1.50. Aikwood Tower (01750 52253), open April-Sept Tues, Thurs, Sun 2-5pm.

appointment. Suggested donations, adults £3,

Groups by arrangement. ■ Reading: The Steel Bonnets (authoritative book

on the reivers), by George MacDonald Fraser (HarperCollins, £9.99).

Carlisle visitor centre, 01228 512444. Dumfries and Galloway Tourist Board. 01387 250434. Scottish Borders Tourist Board. 01750 20555.

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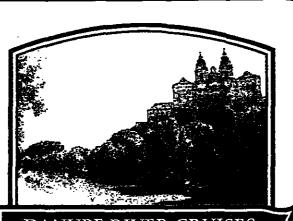


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DAY 1: Fly to Budapest. DAY 2: Budapest. The artists' colony of Szentendre. DAY 3: Tour of Budapest. "Danube Bend". DAY 4: Visegrad's citadel and picturesque Esztergom. DAY 5: Bratislava Little Carpathian Mountains. DAY 6: Vienna. Schoenbrunn Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the old city. DAY 7: Duernstein. Cruise through the Wachau. DAY 8: Melk, for the Baroque Benedictine Abbey. DAY 9: Linz. DAY 10: Passau. Organ recital in St. Stephen's Cathedral. Geisling, DAY 11: Regensburg. Return flight from Munich.



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Family favourites AMONG the companies rated

best for customer satisfaction for 1996 are Simply Travel, VFB Holidays, Sunvil, the Travel Club of Upminster and Eurocamp. All are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) and among the 150 companies listed in its Directory of Real Holidays. All are fully bonded yet, they say, many of their holidays are either unavailable or poorly displayed by mainstream travel agents.

These operators, often family-run, claim to lead the way in quality, flexibility and knowledge of their destina-tions, the range they offer varying from beach and cultural holidays to sports and wildlife watching, from marathen running in Tunisia to frozen river trekking in the Himalayas. One firm managed to guide a 60-year-old woman up Everest.

As a pressure group, AITO has forced a review of the cosy travel agent/tour operator connection by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. and members are quick to point out that Inspirations and Airtours, two of the country's largest operators -- not AITO members - fared worst in the Holiday Which? polls.

The Directory of Real Holidavs '97 is available free from AlTO on 0181-607 9080.

Oh my, Oman

WINTER sunshine breaks with a touch of adventure are offered by Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) from January 25. The nine-day off-the-beatentrack Oman safaris, travelling by 4x4 vehicles, include visits to Muscat and the fishing village of Quirat, Wadi Surwayh in the eastern Hojar mountains and camping at Tiwi Beach. Prices start from £1.072, with flights, accommodation and most meals.

Going basic

HOLIDAYS to the republic of Georgia have been introduced by Bristol-based Regent Trav-el (0117-92) 1711). The newly independent country on the

centuries-old trading route be-tween Asia and Europe, has a rich diversity of architecture and cultures to tempt travellers prepared to put up with basic facilities and occasional delays, but looking for some-

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Breuil-Cervinia in Italy before

crossing to Zermatt, where he

became the first man to climb

All prices include return

flights, half-board accommo-

dation in botels and mountain

refuges, guides picnics, and luggage transportation.

SOAKING up the atmosphere of a busy wine estate during the harvest, with picnics in the vineyards, a traditional endof-vintage supper, even helping with the picking are all part of a five-night tour by Arblaster and Clarke (01730 893344) to Vendange in the

893344) to Vendange in the

Rhone and Languedoc next

September. Guests are based at Château Violet in Minervois, and an auberge in

Chateauneuf, with visits to

leading domaines in both

The cost is £1,099. A five-

night trip to the Burgundy Wine School at Nuit St

Georges during the Trois

Glorieuses wine auction, costs

£1,299. Both prices include

flights, accommodation and most meals, with wine.

OPPORTUNITIES for work

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3472), the non-profit making

organisation that arranges

jobs and exchange visits, mainly to North America and

Australia for students and

those taking a gap-year break

before university. Camp coun-selling and kitchen work at

children's summer camps are

the main tasks.

Gap year

regions.

the Matterhorn in 1865.

Drink-up

thing different. On a 16-day tour starting in Thlisi, the capital, there are visits to the wine-growing area of Kakheti and the 6th-century cave monastery complex of David Garedzha; a trip on the Military Highway, which cuts a path through the Caucasus Mountains to Russia: Gori. the birthplace of Josef Stalin, and the fortress of Khertvisi,



Stalin's statue in Gori Georgia, his birthplace

believed to have been visited by Alexander the Great. The tour costs £1,625 for flights and full board. A five-night break to the capital, including a trip to Mtskheta, the old capital, costs £699, half board.

Footsteps

THREE NEW historic walking trails are included in the Summer Inn-Active gramme by Inntravel (01653 628811) and feature the quieter regions of Europe with strong local cultures. "In the Foot-steps of the Smugglers" fol-lows a mountain route weaving in and out of Spain between Cerdagne and Canigou, the week's tour costing 5765. "In the Footsteps of the Viking Kings" (£898) travels the Viking road from Grindaflet to Aurlandsflord in Norway. "In Whymper's Foot-

steps" (£889) follows the route

Edward Whymper took from



ast July, my husband, two sons and I soaked up a fortnight of deluxe pampering in Kenya's swishest seaside hotel. What made it possible was that we bought the holiday half-price off the TV using

Teletext. Like many families who dream of the perfect holiday. each year our aspirations far outstrip our financial options. The solution, I suggested, was to buy a bargain late booking. Despite a near rebellion from my conservative family, I

The first hurdle was to discover how to use Teletext -I barely knew how to turn on the TV. Most good TVs can receive Teletext, although most people do not use it. In fact, it is easy. Simply take the hand set and press the number for the ITV channel (often number 3), then press the button marked "text" and finally punch in the page num-

The world of cheap holidays s now at your fingertips. But beware the pages turn auto-matically so it is essential to locate your "hold" button in order to drool over the possi-bilities of two weeks at the Hawaii Beach, Cyprus, for £649 or blowing £1,499 at the four-star Le Sport in St Lucia. As to the jargon, HB means half board, SC means selfcatering and All Inci can mean all meals, water sports, trips out and even a starter account

at the pool bar. My husband saw only hotels which are still a plot of land and an architect's drawing. Clearly, concern is common. "Scheduled flights" or British Airways flights are often mentioned, many flights are daytime, and departures are from Manchester as well as the London airports. As to accommodation, while the cheapest holidays of all may promise 14 nights in an unnamed four-star apartment in Tenerife for £189, most name the hotel.

At the bottom of the screen, headlines in different colours lead to specialist topics. reached by pressing coloured buttons on the hand set. We pressed the red button to reach

the "more tropical" pages.
As the pages drifted by we discovered that our geography was hopelessly limited. An atlas was essential. So, too, was a basic knowledge of the world's weather patterns -the Maldives and Thailand would be cheap in July because they were sunk beneath the monsoon, Barbados, Jamaica and other Caribbean islands were dodgy too, while Kenya would have just



emerged from the rains. Cheap prices were not just weather-related. Some places had governments which had collapsed, civil war was imminent and no one in their right mind would go there on holiday. Others, I suspected, were giant slabs of concrete on isolated coasts with no trees,

villages or locals for miles. How was I to avoid a disastrous holiday? Perhaps brochures would tell us more about our potential destinations. At my local travel agent, Ideal Holidays, Philip Jarvis was not encouraging: "You'll get what you pay for". Never

'Friends said it was only cheap because we would be knifed, shot or robbed'

mind, I replied, as I helped myself to half a dozen brochures. He weakened at my resolve, advising me to book no later than four weeks before departure.

He then rose to the Teletext challenge and offered competition: a discounted villa in Greece from Tapestry Holi-days and an utterly dreamworthy holiday in Mauritius with Beach combers which offered a saving of £1,000 per person — tempting if you could afford the £2,000 per person in the first place. The brochures provided pictures and plenty of information on

Aarnus

the hotels. They also revealed the true cost of the holidays. Working on the theory that the saving was almost as important as how much we spent, we agreed to search Teletext for a deluxe exotic holiday since it would offer the highest discount.

Back we went to the screen with our brochures. Mexico, Cyprus and the Red Sea went out on grounds of bad hotel aesthetics. Kenya moved to first place with a choice of three five-star coast hotels at knockdown prices.

An assortment of informed friends delighted in telling me it was cheap because we would be knifed, shot or have everything stolen. For a saner approach, I

for a saner approach, it telephoned Primrose Stobbs at Abercrombie & Kent Travel, specialists in Kenya travel. She immediately told me which hotel would be best for us and asked me how much I

was paying.
When I said "E730 for two
weeks, half board, water sports included, Caledonian Airways direct flight to Mom-basa, one son half price", she replied: "Go for it. We can't match that." And so we did, fulfilling our highest aspirations at the sumptious Indian Ocean Beach Club just south of Mombasa.

And cruising through Teletext this week, as the snow fell on London. I noticed sunny Lanzarote for £99 for a week.

LOUISE NICHOLSON The author booked her holiday with Trapical Places (01342 825123). They can be found on page 259 on [TV Teletect and also

£128 Lyon

2799 Madrid entem 8912 Athens Barcelona £139 Milan -Basle - £319 £127 2123 Munich Budapest Oporto. Bologna ... £147 Oslo Casablanca 2169 30m £109. Cologne 236 Prague frien £148 Copenhagen -:-:: £169 Darlmund £109 Stavanger ±ле £159 : Dusseldorf form £159 (Frankfurt St Petersburg Triba £309 2119 Geneva Strasbourd n as £189 Gothenburg £121 fish: £109 Stuttgart 696. £156 Toulouse Hanover # # £144 2182 £228 **Venice** mm £179 Istanbu €268 Form £159 Vienna Warsaw 2129 £169 Zurich 44 m £123 Need a break? Call your IATA travel agent, ask to fly KLM and Air UK from your local airport, and you're off.

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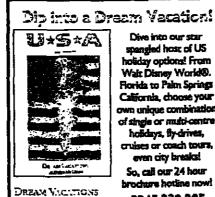
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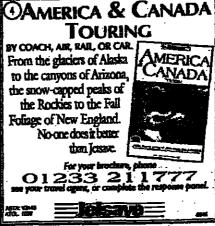
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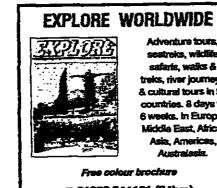
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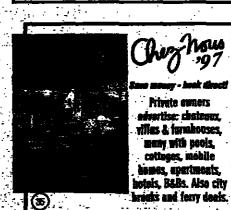
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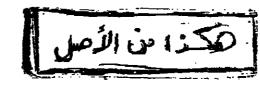


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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

HERE ARE the answers to the Christmas quiz, which appeared on December 21. I set four puzzles of varying difficulty.

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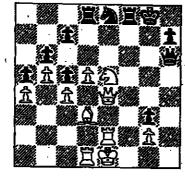
White to play White has sacrificed a piece in order to cluster his attacking forces around the black king. The obvious try is 1 Bh7+, but after 1... Kh8. can White make progress, or does White have something stronger in



Answer: White's best course is 1 Bxf7+ Nxf7 2 Qg6+, and mate in one follows.

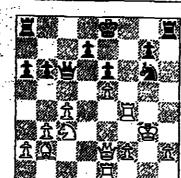
> Gonzalez-Bravo Havana 1995 Black to play

A pawn which has marched close to the enemy king can be extremely dangerous. How did Black exploit the presence of his pawn on g3?



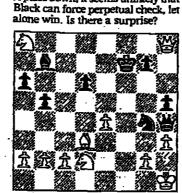
Answer: 1... Rf1+ 2 Kxf1 Qh1 mate Kacakovski-Szuhanek; Palie 1995 Black to play

White is not only a piece up, but seems better developed and better centralised. Is this the case?



Answer: Black has a devastating coup: 1 . . . Rh3+ 2 Kxh3 Nxd4+ forking king and queen. If White meets 1 . . . Rh3+ with 2 Kg4 then 2 . Qg2 is mate,

Yanes-Foyo; Cuba 1995 Black to play A piece down, it seems unlikely that



Answer: Black's winning move is surprising because it strikes at such a well defended point. Black wins with 1 ... Bxe4 with the threat of . . . Qxh3+. Whether White captures on e4 with knight or bishop on move 2, Black's . . . Qel+ will be deadly.

The winner is T. Welch of Camberley, who will soon receive his jeroboam of Moêt & Chandon champagne.

Chess for Charity On Saturday March 22, I will be taking on all-comers in a simultaneous display at St George's Hospital, Tooling, London SW17. This is to raise funds for the £1 million Hold My Hand appeal for children's intensive care. Details from Lucy De Ville, Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (0181-725 5096).

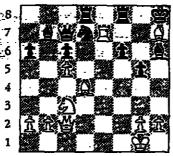
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is game Moran - Pupo, Matanzas 1995. White has sacrificed a rook to invade the black kingside. How 8

does he now conclude with a

subtle manoeuvre? Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rlxd4 (1. exd4 2 Oxh7+ mating)
Last week's winner: J. Nicholas, Hexham, Northumberland.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the carroon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection. Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 34, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London & 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 15.



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard LASTAGE

a. A toll b. Old age

c. Durability

MEDIAMNE

a. A half b. Ancient coinage c. An island in the middle of a river

MOSCHIFEROUS a. Deceitful

b. Bitter tasting c. Producing musk

COLLOP

a. A meat dish

b. A species of grass c. A blunder

Answers on page 18

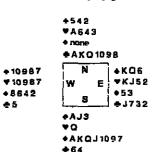
BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

¥ 109

IN QUESTION 2 of the Christmas Bridge Quiz you were shown only the North-South cards of the hand below. You were asked to play 7NT on a spade lead. East contributing the queen.

In the complete deal, I have set up the East-West cards to demonstrate where best play gains.



Contract: 7NT by South

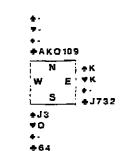
With North the dealer a possible bidding sequence to 7NT is:

The key bid is North's Four Clubs. This unnecessary jump, when the partnership is in a game-forcing situation, conventionally shows a

solid suit. Strictly speaking, he should have the jack instead of one of his lower cards. Over Four Clubs South thinks there are plenty of tricks, so

he checks up on aces via 4NT. Obviously your main hope in 7NT is that the clubs will run, but it costs nothing to play off all the diamonds first. You discard two spades from dummy, all the hearts including the ace, and one club (5 points). You can afford that because if the clubs run you won't need the ace of hearts. The play gains when the lay-out is as above (5 paints).

After all the diamonds have gone this is the position; East still to



What can East discard? If he throws either king, South cashes his newly-created winner and East is in trouble again. It is an example of a repeating squeeze. It would also have worked if East had the major-suit kings and four or more clubs.

 The Christmas Quiz first prize, a jeroboam of Moet & Chandon champagne, goes to G. Sadie of Cheltenham. Second to fourth prizes, an annual subscription to International Popular Bridge, Bridge Magazine or Bridge Plus, go to J. Simons, N. Tornkin and M. Bird. Copies of More Bedside Bridge, allotted by random draw, go to R. Harrison, N. Mace, W. Marsham, G. Muir, P. Walsh and A. Wilson.

 Information on Macallan Pairs (January 22-24) on 0181-878 5844.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

FLIGHT sims started out simple enough, teaching us to fly planes you to lower a rescue harness and helicopters over mostly anonyor use a teargas gun. mous landscapes. Inevitably the Despite options to run genre got increasingly sophisticated, flying us through more realistic, even recognisable, horizons and graphics at different resolutions, so accommodating lesser computers, SimCopter putting us behind more buttons remains a fairly grainy affair and controls than the BBC boasts. lacking much detail. Still, the title is carried off by the atmospheric radio and over-

"I telephoned the Loch Ness

police and they said to hold on'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by N. Richards of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester

Now, to counter such sophistication, auto-pilot is invariably engaged to keep things simple and do away with endless gauge-watching. SincOpter, from Maxis for Windows 95, thrusts flight sims into reverse. Instead of flying yet more transatlantic missions to land passengers - or dump missiles on far-off shores, the scale of the action here is much more manageable. As pilot of a rescue chopper you are charged with keeping law, order and peace of mind in one of 30 cities, each involving missions of varying complexity.

The helicopter is simple enough to fly and, prompted by radio messages, you must hone agility skills to help keep the traffic moving, airlift crash victims to hospitals, extinguish fires, chase criminals and so on. Some demand little more than a blast on the megaphone, telling people to move on or stay just where they are, while other problems call for

all ingenuity. In addition to the 30 city scenarios of the title, you can also import and police your own saved Sim City 2000 creations. For Sim City fans who feel they have now exhausted all possibilities, SimCopter is perfect for renewing interest and vastly extending playability. SimCopter remains a fairly

erratic affair. Much of the time the problems on the ground come thick and fast but there are moments when there's too little to do for too long and hovering around with nowhere to go can get boring.

In contrast, there is something of a gilt-edged white-knuckle ride to be had exploring the Court of Louis XIV and 17th-century Paris in Cryo Interactive's Versailles 1685. On dual format PC and MAC CD-

by Tim Wapshott



Enjoy the Court of Louis XIV on a superb virtual reality tour in Versailles 1685

Rom, this is a coupling of a superb virtual reality tour of the Palace of Versailles with a routine adventure game.

As a tour of the palace it works best. Over 200 paintings hanging on the walls can be enlarged for better viewing - albeit with rather poor definition — but there is a great sense of glamour to the visit. You can explore the elegant state rooms as well as the spiral staircases leading to more modest servants' quarters at a leisurely pace or race, very smoothly, hither and yon at breakneck speed, as if playing over-familiar scenes from Quake. Accompanying the tour is a score of delectable Baroque music,

In adventure game mode the aim is to interview 30 or so courtiers you find around the palace, unearthing cloak-anddagger skulduggery. At odds with the richness of the palace graphics, the characters look and behave awkwardly - like Captain Scarlet rejects. The voice characterisations go some way to rectifying the ugliness of the characters but not far enough to make for hours of fun.

For that, look out for the next big title due this month in the "sim" stakes - Bullfrog's Theme Hospital. Referred to in some quarters as a "sick-em-up", you play hospital administrator and approve all the key decisions to make or break your corner of the NHS service. Early reports suggest the game overflows with plenty of sick spins and even new illnesses to combat.

Clearly Theme Hospital promises to be a more rounded and longer lasting sim sequel than SimCopter — but you don't need to be mastermind to work that out.

Talking of which, many of you thought that the Mastermina presenter Magnus Magnusson was born in Scotland. In fact he hails from leeland, the correct answer to our Cyberspace Twenty-Eight competition. Thank you to all who entered, our 12 winners of the BBC's Mastermind CD-Rom are: Jean Blagden of Rotherham, Re-becca Caines of Doncaster, Edward Christopher of Switzerland, Mary Cotterell of Carlisle, Claire Dart of St Leonards on Sea. Janet Donbavand of Twickenham, Neil Gibson of Sunbury-on-Thames, Jean Grzesik of Sheffield, Andrew Hughes of Yelverton, Devon, Michael Moran of Penrith. Matthew Scott of Clifton, Notts, and David Taylor of Cambridge.

"Annoy boasting friends talking about the capabilities of their new PC by insisting that a new model price is imminent. Especially irritating since it is invariably true." Cyberspace Twenty-Nine Top Tip entry from Stephen Welch of Stockport, Cheshire.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3392: Boundary by Apex

Boundary (clockwise) gives a normal clue to column 8 and sets the Theme for the puzzle. Clues are given to each row and to each column; where 1 more than one word occurs, the clues are in the correct order and stand side by side without overlapping. The symbol in the bottom row represents a dash, not a hyphen. The 12 unchecked letters of Boundary give NEW TV COW FUND. Chambers (1993) is recommended.

ACROSS Lewis returning for work, to learn about one . 4 new net a relative of old Bird cut down (5.5,3) Active fellow backing the chief scout, as before,

rums from side to side (3,5) Delay about late cut - larger-than-life fellow run out, I see (6,6) Scene of a lapse? Need to reform language -

slip drops one - men in a line turn to snarl A crawler back in huge trouble. Viewers, early 7

English, admit batting a month in Test is ridiculous (4,4,5) Wood, learner in a Test, after length — I'm 8

bowled a flipper - time to appeal for enterprise? (5.4.4) Important dates in summer — a shady tree one getting runs affected - target about one

Catching good, batting good, previous es timate - man will bag a couple of runs (6,6) Chapter in one short story of stress in the Oval becoming a habit? (5,3)

Endless initiative in field - Lamb's poor alien soul about to catch old Australian (3.5,5)

Man carrying club, to remain a pro once domineered over ring in wild west show (6.5) Pest to ring up opener in another county game

in Wilts - he's crazy about No.1 (4.9)

Caller getting up staff again — some guru sounding bugle — one finishing off formally with a bit of reveille? (5,4,4) 3

The most original character in Tests? Sporting Len and Reg elect Bird (12)

Deceived one bowled out! - worn piece of old earth has been turned up (4,4)

Entertainment for those standing to consider - a topless girl-dancing around copper? (13)

A girl Mike's met provides cold drink for a fan

Boundary (11 words)

To spread note about mounting fiddle involving square - case a native combination ran to contest? (4,5,5)

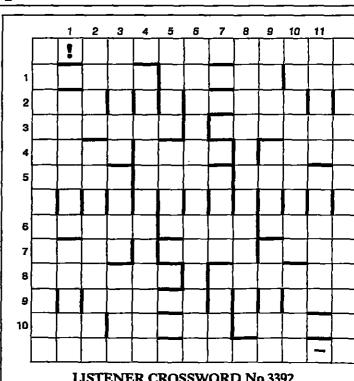
Long-legged youngster when run out has failed to dampen one going in to score (9,4)

Films man working on one Australian - Cork

again about to impress (5.6)

Solution to No 3389: Waterstone's by Rieshaw THEBLUEDANUBES Quotation: THIS MUSIC CREPT BY ME FAULDUNURALI UPON THE WATERS (FERDINAND) from The Tempest. Perimeter musical pieces are all associated with rivers: The Blue Danube (Strauss); Siegfried's Rhine Journey (Wagner); Severn Suite (Elgar) and Vltava (Smetana). Across clue words after modification: 10 faul; 13 arrow; 15 harms: 16 morel; 17 y: 18 cold; 19 crew; 20 move; 22 pit; 23 sandal; 28 star; 29 bard; 30 wet; 33 earing; 36 one; 37 risk; 38 any; 39 disparat; 40 state; 41 in. Down clued versions: 2 HEXST; 3 BALLAB; 4 OLEMA; 5 LUNGENESS; 6 ANDIWON; 7 RRAEMIA; 8 ELEANOS: 11 FLYGO: 12 USUREXS: 14 ALBANIS; 21 SOUURETTE; 24 LEGATOX; 25 PRO WATA; 26 JOHNFIE: 27 DELIBLE; 28 SCATELY; 31 IGNARC; 32 LYDRA; 34 WHAIR: 35 MEARE. The winner is C. Bickmore of Bishop's Stortford,

Hertfordshire. The five runners-up are: R. Hooper of London SW19; J. Mackintosh of West Wickham, Kent: R. Noskwith of Sandiacre, Nottinghamshire, D. Milna of Shepton Mallett, Somerset, and M. Kerr of Bangor,



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in association with Waterstone's NAME. ADDRESS.

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3392. 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, January 23.



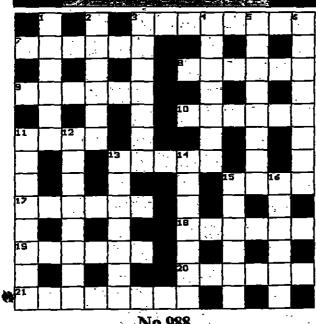
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:.a" =

1 ...

ACROSS 3 Exerciser's weight (8) 7 Jean -, French tragedian (6)

8 Arrive (4.2); hand-made ciggy (4-2) 9 Sechided or dangerous

place (6) 10 With sharp, uneven edges (6) 11 Cannabis plant (4) [3 First appearance (5)

15 Refuse to obey (4) 17 Flaccid (6) 18 Rage; to moderate (6) 19 Empty inside (6)

20 A kept man; paid escort (6) 21 Bunthorne's bride (GSS); card game (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 987 ACROSS: 1 High 3 Tacitum 9 Spice 10 Citadel 11 Example 12 Murk 14 Radian 16 Aspire 18 Sell 19 Prickle 22 Partner 23 Alone 24 Entracte 25 Edit

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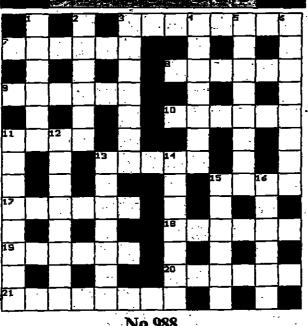
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and the second of the second of the second



No 988 NWOO 1 She demanded head of

> 3 Dispossess (7) 4 In good spirits; able to float 5 Speak in high praise of (8)

Bap tist (6)

2 Take for ransom (6)

6 Engraved on stone; dignified (style) (8) 11 Straitened circumstances (8) 12 Speaking only one tongue

13 Speak regretfully of (7) 14 Take attention from (7)

15 Harm, loss (6) 16 With little strength (6)

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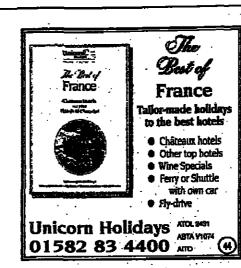
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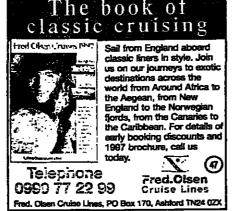
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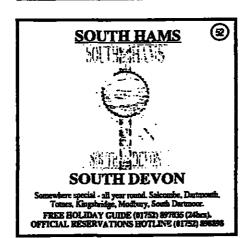


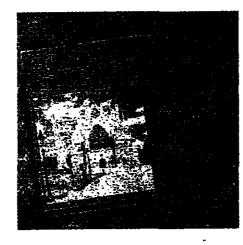




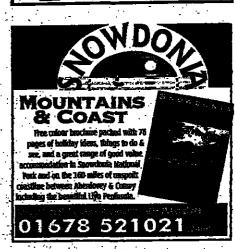


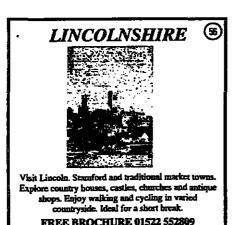


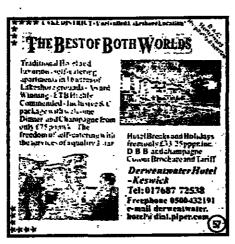


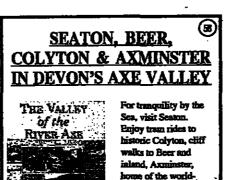








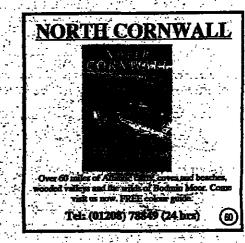


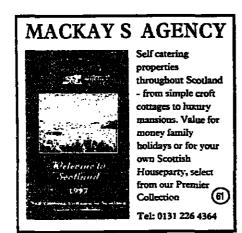


famous carpets. -



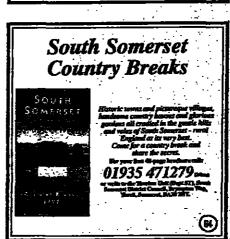
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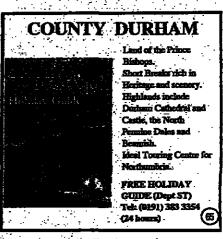


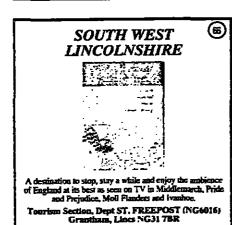


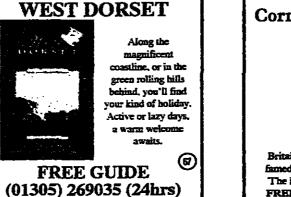




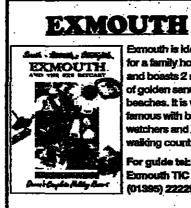


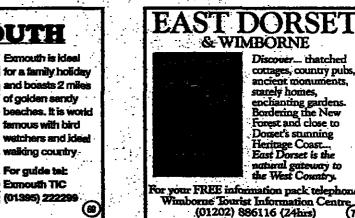




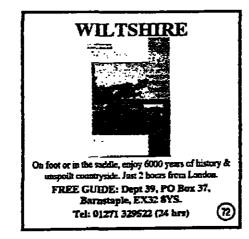


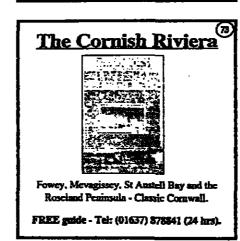




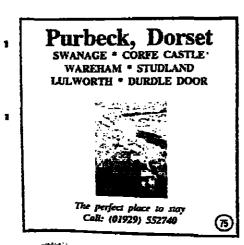






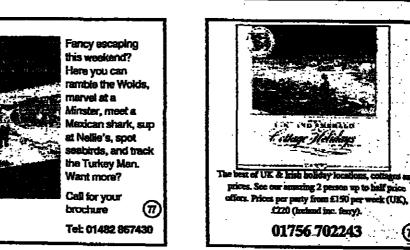


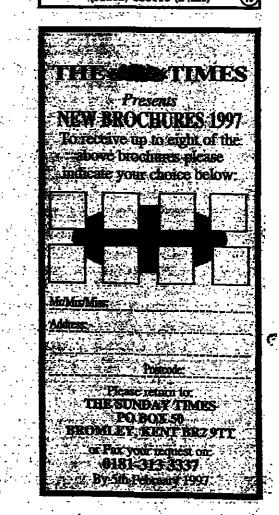


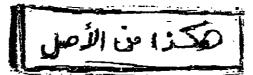
















Lotus gives the Elise an electric shock Page 3



Why the model champion is named 'Schuey'



Small is

beautiful

again THE ARRIVAL of the

Mini in 1959 sounded the death knell for the bub-ble car, writes Alan Copps. Ever-more strin-

gent safety legislation put nails in the coffin of such vulnerable small But the engineering ingenuity devoted to fitting the human frame into ever-smaller shapes on wheels survives.

The current pace has been set by Ford with its Ka. But the technology of tiny transport will take a much more significant forward Mercedes-Benz

New Mercedes has a unique double floor the small-car field for the first time later this year with its A-class.

This car, unlikely to arrive in Britain before 1998, is shorter than a Ka but boasts the cabin space of a Mercedes C-class. It features an engine tilted at 59 degrees and a unique double floor that enables it to pass crash

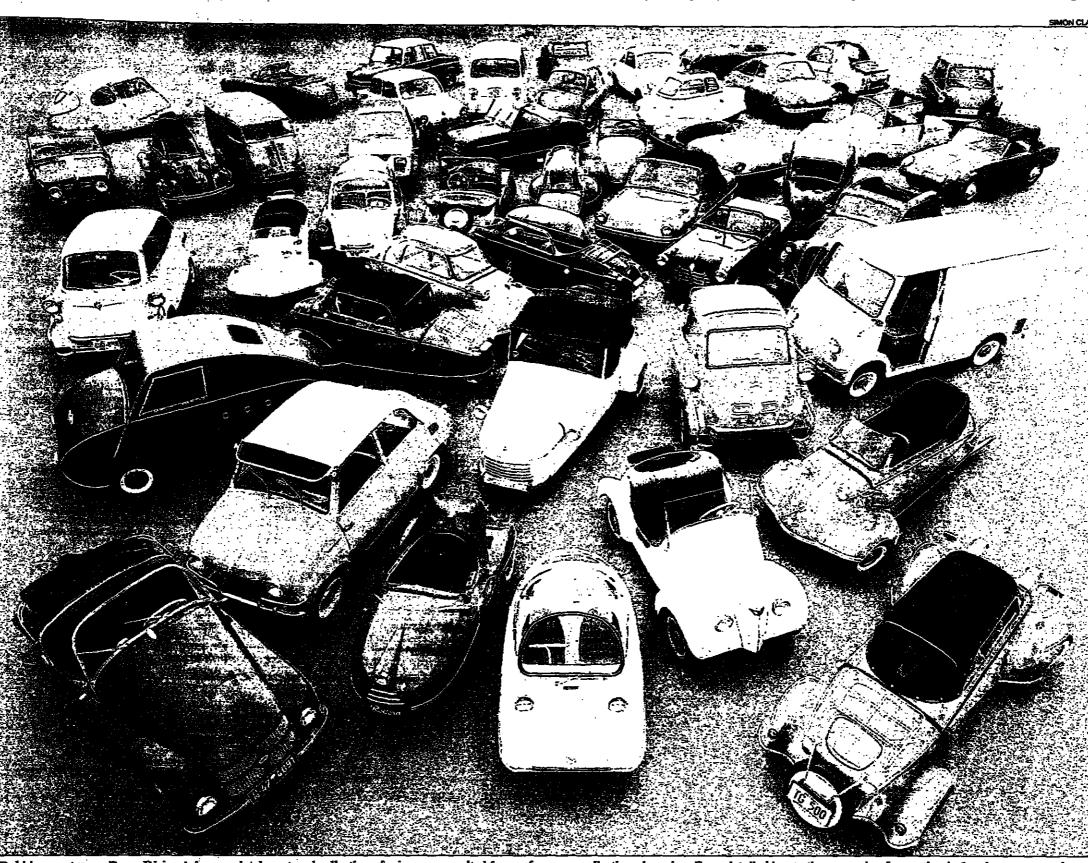
Meanwhile engineers flat-out to perfect the replacement for the 38-

With new car sales in Britain topping the two million mark last year for the first time since 1990, the small-car market was led by increasing demand for sophisticated five-door superminis. We've come a long way from the basic bubble of the post-war years.

vear-old Mini.

SATURDAY JANUARY II 1997

The bubbles blow into Britain



Bubble-gum tycoon Bruce Weiner's immaculately restored collection of microcars resulted from a four-year collecting obsession. For a detailed key to the cars going for auction in London, see page three

A unique collection is up for sale, says Alan Copps



That would you do if you made a fortune selling bub-ble gum? Bruce Weiner took to collecting cars and rapidly became a specialist — in bubble cars, of course. In the space of four years, his interest developed from curiosity to near obsession. He criss-crossed the Atlantic from his home in Canada in search of rarities and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars restoring them. Some were revived from scrapyard relics to pristine

"I used to buy sports cars. I was looking through magazine ads at a page headed M for MG and I saw this little picture of a Messerschmitt. I just couldn't believe it. I'd never seen anything like it. I had to

"Once that was done I went and bought more in Germany, the UK, Sweden and in North America, where they were never seen on the roads but where there are a number of collectors. I was hooked. They just have such character and some of them are really engineering masteroicoes.

buying a stepchild in a piece of metal," says Bruce.
"Whenever someone sold one to me it

was always a sad parting. People become so attached to them. But I couldn't resist the thrill of the chase. The rarest of them, like the Tigers, are as rare as the rarest Perrari.

The result of his passion was a barn full of almost 50 bubble, or more correctly, microcars, believed to be the largest privately-owned collection in the world. Now with mixed feelings he will be crossing the Atlantic in a few weeks' time to see 45 of his precious stepchildren sold by Christie's at auction in London.

"I thought it was time to stop. By the time I finished I was employing three people full-time to look after the cars. If I'd gone on collecting I would have had to open a museum. I'm not in a position to do that," says Bruce.

But he can't quite let go: "I'm keeping two or three back. They are just such good conversation pieces and you can put them anywhere. I'm looking at one I've put in my office as we speak, it's a fine 1955

Messerschmitt KR 200," he says from his headquarters in Concord, Ontario.

When the cars come to auction on March 6 at Jack Barclay's showroom in Vauxhall, South London, they will provide an astonishing contrast to the usual occupants. Barclay's is the capital's leading Rolls-Royce and Bentley dealer.
Malcolm Welford, Christie's motor car expert, who will sell the cars says: "This must be the largest collection of bubble cars to be sold. It's one of those sales which will provoke interest well beyond the usual circle of car collectors.

These vehicles have a tremendous cult following in the design and fashion worlds. They say so much about the period when they were produced. J wouldn't be surprised if some of these cars sell in groups to motor or design museums."

The cars will be sold without reserve and although final estimates have yet to be agreed they are likely to be between £1,000 and £20,000, depending on age, condition and rarity. There is no official Continued on Page 3



BMW Isetta encapsulates the classic Fifties bubble-car shape

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Why does Britain's infrastructure go to pieces when a snowflake falls? You can't even get your slush-filthy car cleaned unless you drive to Helsinki

Great unwashed get frozen out

lthough the recent cold weather has been enough to make Chris Bonnington think twice before going out for a packet of mints, the general mayhem brought about in Britain by a taste of the chilly stuff is one of life's more baffling phenomena. What is it about the British car wash, for example, that causes it to freeze solid at the sight of a Michael Fish weather

I went out one recent chilly night determined to find out what colour my car would be if it wasn't filthy. Eight car washes and .35 miles later. I was none the wiser. But at least I had heard some interesting excuses for this most basic amenity's vulnerability to weather. A man at the first one said that his car wash was indeed working, it just wasn't open. Eh? The trouble

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Barnard

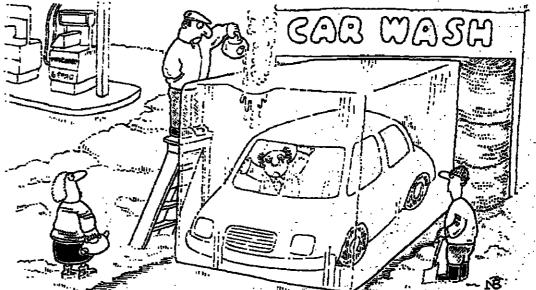
Peter

was, the water used in the wash ran away on to the forecourt. If it froze and someone fell over, he might be sued. Three car washes later, my hopes were raised. A huge sign with typography of a size to make The Sun proud announced: CAR WASH OPEN. I

spoke to a woman who was seated behind the sort of glass used when serial killers are allowed visitors. "I'm sorry." she said. "I haven't

been able to take the sign away because they lock me in at night." asked her what would happen if her till caught fire, but left without hearing the answer. The next garage but three had a jet-wash. Perhaps this would be working? One of those individuals whose acquaintances are all called Mate or Pal said: "You must be joking, Pal. Hasn't worked since Christmas. Try the one three sets of lights down on the left. Mate."

I did but it wasn't. The attendant said that it had been working, "let's see now, Tuesday I think it was, no, might have been Mon-day, but it was on and off". People had been going away with half the car clean, all sorts of ructions,



game wasn't worth the candle,

shut it down. At car wash number eight, two people buying the sorts of essentials no self-respecting garage would be without - nylon stockings and a tin of soup - joined me in wondering what people in colder climes did about washing their cars. Surely, one of them

said, people in Finland aren't driving round in filthy cars for six months of the year?

So I rang up Finland. Specifically, the British Embassy in Helsinki, where a helpful young lady transferred me to Tony Falzon, a Brit who looks after the central heating at the embassy and in all the homes of the staff. First we had

a chat about the weather. On the night that my car went unwashed in a temperature of minus 4C, the temperature in Helsinki had fallen to minus 19C. But Tony could still

get his car washed. "For one thing," he said, "all the car washes are enclosed. They have automatic doors. But the main difference is that the water in

LONDON

A406 Upper Edmonton; major roadworks on Angel Road (North Ciccular Road) over the Lea Valley Viaduct. A3 Kingston; northbound

lane closure on the Kingston Bypass between Shannon Comer (A298) and Coombe

Lane Junction (A238). Heavy congestion. A224 Saint Mary Cray, lane closed on the Sevendaks Way.

A3212 (9pm-6am) Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment closed

around the junction with Manor Road.

A330 Ascot; roadworks and temporary lights are in

place. A27 Brighton; overnight (10pm-6pm) work on the

Ditchling Road Bridge. Diversions

Brighton bypass between the Hangleton Junction and

on slip roads, with other local restrictions.

M27 between junction 8 with lane closures and

(A3057) and (A343); bridge

estrictions and lane closures

contraflow at times. A303 Andover between

maintenance with lane closures and overnight

M25 junctions 6-10;

A3 Hogs Back (A31);

SOUTH WEST

Water-main work.

oth directions.

delays. M5 junctions 17-20;

ANGLIA

contratiow with 50mph speed

MIDLANDS AND EAST

Bypass (A564 under construction), roadworks.

A6 Lockington; contraflow from just north of the M1 junction 24 to Sawley island (B6540) with no right

turn into Donnington Lane. A14 Nottingham,

medworks and lane closures

the railway station and Broad

in both directions between

A464 Haughton; temporary

A14 between Bury St

Edmonds and Kentford:

A38 Derby Southern

roadworks at the Stag Hill

closures.

both ways.

ffyover.

SOUTH EAST.

overnight at weekends between Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge. A232 Wallington; roadworks on Croydon Road

them is given an oil-based additive which stops it from freezing. What with the snow and the slush, we have to wash our cars a lot and I've never known a frozen-up car wash. People here wouldn't stand for it."

I have not telephoned any British petrol companies to ask why we are supposed to stand for it because I am not interested in what they have to say. There may not be that many days when car washes are frozen but the point is that cars need to be especially visible in the sort of conditions that often cause them to be invisible. Salt, slush, snow and general muckiness in the air mean the car wash is more, not less, necessary at

this time of the year. Nor do I know anything about additives in water. What I do know is that Finland is a very cold country a lot of the time and Britain is a fairly cold country some of the time. But I'll be damned if I'll drive to Helsinki to wash the car.

CLOSING DATE for our competition to give the Ford Ka a nickname is Monday. Post a card today to Name That Ka, Car 97, The Times, I. Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The winner gets a magnum of champagne.

New rules forcing learners to pass the theory test first have spread confusion and hit instructors, says Alan Copps



Low technology: driving schools have criticised the Driving Standards Authority's pencil-and-paper test. Computers would help pupils get results much quicker, they argue

Schools write off test changes

test introduced on January I have left many learners confused, according to some driv-

Although the changes were flagged when the driving theory test was introduced on July I last year, the Driving Standards Agency, which administers tests, has been criticised for not giving them more publicity as they became eff-

One of the chief changes means that learners will now have to pass the driving theory test before they are able to book a practical test. Under interim arrangements that lasted from July until January I, the two tests could be taken in any order.

The DSA says that was a purely administrative measure, because practical tests would otherwise have to have been halted while new drivers took theory tests. But the change to "theory first" has hitbusiness hard at some schools. devoted to providing intensive driving courses.

John O Shea, who runs the

Rent. says: "The DSA just seems to have ignored the problems of schools like mine. I've gone from 14 cars down to two. A lot of my customers were expatriates who would do an intensive course and take their tests during a twoweek holiday in Britain.

Now they need a minimum of 17 days just to book and get the result of a theory test. To do the practical test, too, would require a month's holiday. Next week, for the first time in six years. I've got no pupils." Mr O'Shea is also critical of

the form that the theory test takes. "It's the technology of the last century. No technology at all, just paper and pencil. If they used a computer-based test a candidate would know immediately whether they had passed or failed and would know where

they went wrong." The British School of Motoring, Britain's Jurgest, has also campaigned for a computerbased theory test.

A spokesman for the DSA said the next generation of theory tests, in three or per-Kingston Intensive Driving haps five years time, would be technology-based. "But the test has to be universally acceptable. Most candidates may be in their teens or twenties, but we have to allow for those of 65 who may never have touched a computer keyboard before."

He said there was nothing

to stop candidates booking and sitting a theory test before they started an intensive course. "We are meeting our targets on theory tests now. There is a maximum two-week waiting period and people get their results within seven to ten days."

In the first few months of the theory test, which has now been sat by more than 500,000 people, some candidates had to wait up to a month to get their results.

The pass mark was raised three months after introduction, from 26 out of 35 auestions to 30 out of 38. Since then the pass rate has fallen from around \$3 per cent of candidates to around 60 per cent.

The DSA spokesman said the "theory first" change had not been the subject of publicity because its advertising budget had been devoted to more fundamental changes in motorcycle tests, designed to put an end to the phenomenon of permanent learner" motorcy clists. It was important to let people know about that change because it affects people who are already on the road, rather than those taking tests after January I," said the

These changes mean that all motorcyclists must now com-plete the DSA's Compulsory Basic Training course which consists of essential handling skills off the public road and safety instruction, followed by a supervised ride on the road.

Since January 1 all L-plate moped and motorcycle riders must complete a CBT course before going on the roud alone. Their CBT certificates expire after three years, so unless they complete a full motorcycle test within that period, they

have to start all over again. The DSA has written to 283,000 people registered as keepers of mopeds and motorcycles up to 125cc, the maximum allowed for learners, to warn them of the change. A new series of motorcycle categories for learners has also been introduced.

NEW RULES

Written tests for car and motorcycle licences were introduced in July last year and must now be taken before the practical tests. Since January 1, other changes to driving

 For motorcycles there are two new categories — light motorcycle (A1) restricting riders to a 125cc machine, and standard motorcycle (A) limit-ing riders to medium-sized

 Learner motorcyclists are no longer allowed to ride a machine of any size if it has a sidecar

Basic training must be undertaken before taking a motor-

 New car licences will restric drivers to vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes, a reduction from 7.5 tonnes, and vehicles with a maximum of eight passenger seats. They will not be valid for



Volvo has high hopes of the new \$40 touring car

ON YOUR marque: Volvo unveiled its challenger for the 1997 British Touring Car Championship, at the Autosport International Show in Birmingham this week.

Volvo and its racing partner TWR are pinning high hopes on the newcomer, the \$40, after their 850 saloon came third overall in the manufacturers' title last says: "S40 racing marks the year, ahead of leading ristart of another new era." vals Renault and Vauxhall Drivers Rickard Rydell and Kelvin Burt were at Thursday's first public showing of the new race contender, which now begins a tough

schedule in Europe and

Britain in preparation for the first BTCC meeting at Donington on March 31. Last year, Rydeli took third overall position in the drivers' championship in the 850. Volvo has competed in the BTCC since returning to international motorsport in 1994. Tuve Johannesson, president of the Volvo Car Corporation,

Autosport International 97 is the at National Exhibition Centre. Birmingham until tomorrow. Tickets and information: 0121 767 4747.

temporary traffic lights on Bilston Road at the Canal

Bridge. A454 Walsall Road. Aldridge between Tyning Lane and Cruicksand Lane; temporary traffic lights

NORTH M6 between junction 25 Wigan and Junction 27 Standish, bridge maintenance with 50mph speed limit. Narrow lanes in A62 Chadderton: construction on Oldham Road at junction with Hollinwood

Avenue, known locally as the "Roxy junction". **A570** Rainford Road Bickerstaffe; work at the junction with the M58, with single-lane traffic restrictions in both directions.

A19 Bentley, roadworks at the Bentley Road flood arches, A61 Wakefield Road, Stourton. Roadworks bel the Jaw Bones and the roundabout at Stourton. A636 Denby Dale Road, Wakefield; roadworks close the road to inbound traffic near the junction with Ings-

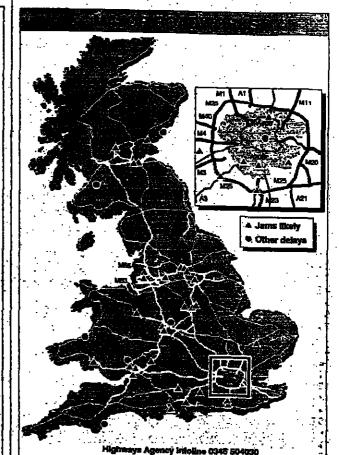
M1 junction 47; roadworks restrictions. WALES

A48 Eastern Avenue, Heath; narrow lanes eastbound near the University Hospital. A482 Aberaeron; Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed. Diversions via Panteg Road and the A487. A470 north of Cefn Coed;

temporary lights on Brecon A3022 New Road, Brixham. M4, junction 23a to junction 24; contrallow A35 Barrack Road, Christchurch; Lane closed in **M4** junctions 47-48; carriageway reduced to one lane in both directions. M5 junction 13; major roadworks with only one lane A472 Pontypool;contraflow between Pontymoile and the open at the roundabout junction with the A419. Long Heron Roundabout, Expect lengthy delays.

• SCOTLAND A937 Hillside, Montrose; roadworks and restrictions in M8 Edinburgh junction 2 Newbridge Spur (M9); major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout. A8 Princes Street, Edinburgh, no motor vehicles as it is closed eastbound. Diversions via South Charlotte

Street, Queen Street and York Place. A92 Tay Road Bridge; maintenance work in place a the bridges. Also lane closures southbound. A76 Lockhill North to Net Cumnock, temporary traffic ights in place. A9 Greenloaning, contraflow in place, 4 mile

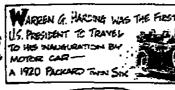


AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

AFTER THE 1959 LAUNCH OF THE MICHELOTTI-SPILED TRILMPH HERALD. CHELOTTI-STADD TRILMPH HERALD. THE LAND OF SPAGHETT



PREFARING FOR THE 1956 CUBAN GRAND FRIX, JUAN MANNEL FANGIO WAS KIDNAPPED BY FIDEL CASTRO'S GUERTLAS



PRIVEN MORE THAN 4 000 MILES ARMUND BRITAINS COASTLINE. A TOYOTA CADINA E AVERAGED 76 MPG.

المكذا من الاصل

its first full production electric vehicle? Ford vice-president Ross Roberts says: "We want-

reliability, durability and with built-in safety that could also

being exerted by some US states, particularly California which is demanding that car-

makers sell a percentage of so-

called zero-emission vehicles. Range and battery weight is

still a problem, but GM's EVI.

which went on sale in Los

Angeles, Phoenix and Tucson

a month ago, has already

achieved 76 sales with a fur-

ther 29 orders taken - exceeding supply from the factory in

The car is not cheap, at close

to £30,000. The buyer profile, according to GM, tends to be

high earners, £80,000 a year

Honda is also entering the

EV market in California with

its own new vehicle called the

EV Plus, also launched at last

week's Los Angeles Motor

hydride batteries, and it will

be leased to private customers

for \$499 a month - around

£300. However, they first have

to pay out around £2,000 for

charging the batteries. To buy

the car would again cost more

Tom Elliott, executive vice president for American

Honda, says: "By designing

the EV Plus to use advanced

battery technology with seat-ing for four and a versatile

cargo area, our goal is to

Honda plans to lease out

around 300 of the vehicles with delivery starting in May.

It accelerates to 60mph in a

pedestrian 17.7 seconds al-

though it has a claimed top

speed of over 80mph. Driving

Electric vehicle expert Alan

Coconi believes there is plent

of fun to be had with electric

vehicles and has proved it with

his T-Zero two-seater sports-

car. His company, AC Propul-

sion, wowed the media at the

than £30,000.

he small hatchback is the first production

vanced nickel-metal

households".

offer 700lb of payload. Ford admits it still has a

Britain launches the battery-driven super-sports car, while new entrants transform the American market

New electrifying performers

Lotus's Elise is a petrol beater

given electrifying performance. A prototype he unveiled at an automotive show in America next month. It will have twin electric motors producing 200bhp -70 per cent more power than the petrol-engined car, writes

It should reach 60mph in under five seconds with a top speed of at least 125mph. And if an owner wanted to trade range for performance, the 0-60 time could be even guicker. The electric Elise is the idea

of Zytek Automotive of Sutton Coldfield, who are now assembling the prototype. Despite having to carry batteries to give it an average 150-mile range, it should weigh about the same as the standard 1.8litre, 118bhp car and have the ride and handling.

'No one has ever built a road-ready electric supercar before, the driving experience will be quite astonishing," promises Žytek's director, Bill Gibson. Zytek is working in collaboration with Lotus, taking care of all electronic development work, while vehicle engineering is the responsibility of Lotus. The Midlands electric motors for the Chrysler Intrepid ESX hybrid concept vehicle.

But how can an electric

Elise, lugging batteries around, really handle as well as the original? It is all down to Zytek's lightweight electric motors, weighing in at 13kg pany, provide the highest powelectric motor vehicle available today. There is only one moving part — the rotor — and the only sliding parts are the bearings. It provides maximum torque from zero speed, eliminating the need for a conventional gearbox. The motors will be positioned where the car's mid-engine

would normally fit. The motors and the 300-volt nickel cadmium type batteries use aerospace technology. The batteries replace the fuel tank and are placed at the front of the car, just ahead of the scuttle. Zytek believe this will give the electric Elise similar balance to the original and weight close to the standard car's very light 723kg.

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April 18 Page 1

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Zviek plans to show the car at the Society of Automotive Engineers International Congress and Exposition which



Claimed power for the electric Elise is 70 per cent more than the petrol-driven model and the handling is as good. Batteries not included, though: you may have to lease them



Ford's Ranger EV is an electric version of the world's most popular single vehicle

mainly motor industry spe-cialists from across the world.

"There has been nothing else quite like this. It is a serious project, not just a oneoff for publicity. The Elise is an exceptional car in standard form and we realised it would be a perfect vehicle to accept our lightweight, electric vehi-

Gibson adds: "The standard car does not need power steering or power brakes, both areas where additional conversion work would have been required. The vehicle structure is unchanged from the standard Elise, and Zytek is engineering the entire conversion. Our aim is to make electric vehicles desirable, not just necessary through govern-

ment mandate "The Elise forms an ideal testbed for high-performance electric vehicle technology but, depending on response from its exposure in Detroit, we believe it would be suitable for low volume production."

The big question, though, is how much the production electric Elise would cost. General Motors' EVI electric car costs about the same as a much larger fully equipped petrol-engined Cadillac. GM has eased this problem by leasing the EVI. Gibson be lieves a production electric Elise could be sold for the same price as a petrol-engined model but would be supplied without batteries. These might be leased annually, the price possibly comparing with a typical petrol bill for an average year's driving. But the detailed economics have yet to

This is a radical departure for the British motor industry. We are working in collaboration with Lotus and expect to have development vehicles travelling very quickly — and quietly — around their test track this spring."

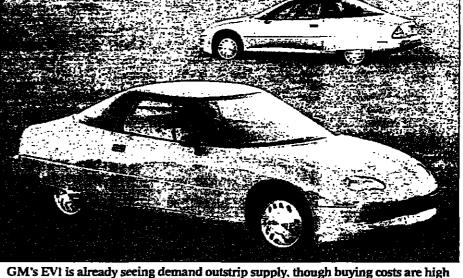
be worked out.

Now Ford joins the charge in **America**

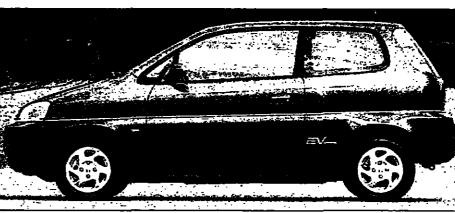
ord is following General Motors into full electric-vehicle production with a typical American pick-up, Chris Wright.

Pick-ups are big business in the US and Ford sold a staggering 780,000 versions of its F-series "truck" last year, making it the most popular single vehicle on the planet. Now the company hopes an electric version will help preserve the planet.

Called the Ranger, it was unveiled at the Los Angeles motor show this week and



GM's EVI is already seeing demand outstrip supply, though buying costs are high



Honda plans to lease 300 of its EVs in California, despite their slow acceleration

year. It will be launched into the southern states to compete with GM's EVI electric car, which is already seeing demand outstrip supply.

The Ford Ranger EV has 15 years' worth of electric vehicle research packed into it. John

goes into production later this alternative fuel vehicles programme, says: From our experience with advanced batteries we have developed the most sophisticated batterymanagement system available. The bottom line is that with the Ranger EV there is a very high level of reliability

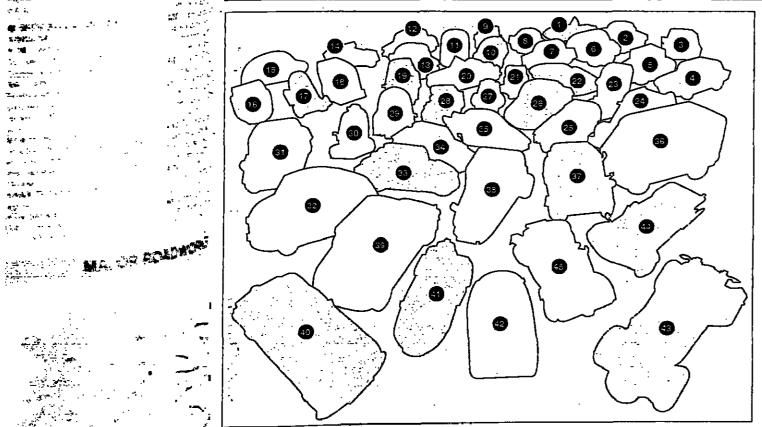
90bhp and its liquid-cooled motor is governed to a maximum speed of 75mph to preserve a 58-mile driving range. An acceleration time to 50mph of 12.5 seconds is only half a second off that of the petrolpowered pickup.

So why choose a pick-up as

Los Angeles Motor Show by showing how the car could outdrag a Chevrolet Corvette and return a better driving range than the EVI. Coconi knows a thing or two about EVs. he was one of the original development team for the impact concept vehicle, the forerunner to EVI, and his company produces electricdrive systems already used by

Coconi is now looking for a partner to help put the car into production in small numbers. He is aiming at around 300 cars priced at around £60,000.

a number of carmakers.



1 Berkeley B-90 (1958) 2 A.C.M.A Vespa 400 (1958) 3 Zundapo Janus 250 (1958) 4 Berkeley B-90 (1959) 5 P. Vallee Chantecler (1957) 6 King S-7 (1959) 7 A.E.M.S. Inter Berline (1955) 8 Isard TS 400 Coupé (1959)

9 King Midget (1967) 10 Heinkel Kabine 154 (1957) 11 Fiat 600 Multipla (1957) 12 NSU Prinz IIE (1960) 13 Mikrus MR 300 (1959) 14 Berkeley T-60 (1962) 15 Fuldamobil N-1 (1955) 16 Reliant Regal MK1 (1953)

WELLO BUBBLES

19 Bond Bug (1973) 20 Rovin D4 (1951) 21 Mochet Velocar CM-125 (1951) 22 Spatz (1956) 23 Mochet Velocar CM-125 Commerciale (1953) 24 Flat 500 Topolino (1938) 25 Mochet Velocar CM-125 Grand

Luxe (1954) 26 Victoria 250 (1956) 27 Messerschmitt KR-175 (1954) 28 Kleinschnitterger F-125 (1952) 29 Trojan 200 (1962) 30 Messerschmitt KR-200 Sport

31 BMW !setta 600 (1959) 32 Fuldamobil N-1 (1951) 33 Messerschmitt KR-200 (1959) 34 Messerschmitt KR-200 Bubble Top (1961) 35 FMR Tg 500 Tiger (1960) 36 Goggomobil TL 400 Transporter

37 BMW Isetta 300 (1957) 38 Bond Minicar MK B (1952) 39 Goggomobil T 400 Limousine 40 Kleinschnitterger F-125 (1954) 41 Rollera (1958) 42 Peel Trident (1964) 43 FMR Tg 500 Tiger Cabriclet (1960)

44 Messerschmitt KR-201 (1958)

45 Rolux Baby VB 60 (1949)

auction record for such cars but a perfect specimen of the rare FMR Tiger, for example, has been known to change hands for £20,000 Peter Svilans, the mechanic who carried out much of Weiner's

Continued from page 1

restoration work says: "This car, used for continental touring, added an unexpected new angle to microcar collecting. These cars are really a blast to drive. Direct steering, adjustable Formula One type rear suspension, twice the power of a Messerschmitt 200 and phenomenal handling and cornering, give a truly thrilling experience unlike any other vehicle.' None of the cars in the Weiner

collection is in anything but excellent condition. Bruce insisted that they should all be restored down to the last nut and bolt and should all be driveable. Some have had up to \$60,000 spent on them. "I don't think I'll get back all the money I've spent on them, but it's been such tremendous fun collecting them." says Bruce.

Peter , who worked on sportscars before specialising in microcars, says: "In North America these are looked on largely as a novelty. People driving by in their big Cadillacs just stare or laugh.

"But they are fascinating bits of engineering. They each have their own virtues. The Tiger is the best drive. It's just like a go-kart. They reflect national characteristics. The German ones are generally wellengineered. Some of the French ones have very poor handling but such a lot of charm. The British Bond was pretty klunky looking but very practical," says Peter.

"Some of the cars were extremely difficult to restore because only a handful were made of many of them and only about half have any sort of sales literature dating from when they were made. The Goggomobil Transporter was the most difficult because it was such a



Bruce Weiner in a Kleinschnitterger F-125: "I don't think I'll get back all the money I've spent."

wreck, really derelict and ready for their attentions from aircraft to scrapping. We just had to make a lot of the parts."

The fascination of microcars stems from the way in which they reflect their time. Most were made in Germany and that is the centre of enthusiasm. The world's largest collection is at a museum in Story near Frankfurt, more than 150 microcars fill the buildings around a loth-century courtyard. When the cars first appeared in the 1950s many of them bore the names of makers who less than a decade earlier had struck a chill through Brirish hearts, Messerschmitt. Heinkel and BMW had turned

providing basic transport for a nation in the throes of reconstruction.

Many of them were made under licence, the Heinkel in Ireland, for example. Others came from Italy and France while some of the wackiest were made in Britain, the weird frog-eyed Bond Bug and the sporty, three-wheeled Berkeleys.

The simplicity and skill of the engineering which went into their design has accumulated a cult following. Stirling Moss still drives his Isetta occasionally around London and other loyal users keep the flame alive. Another of the large

collections is to be found in a barn in Kent, carefully guarded by Jean and Edwin Hammond who run the Register of Unusual Microcars.

The historic town of Marburg hosts an annual gathering of the Messerschmitt club of Germany, and there is a national microcar rally in Britain each year.

The Bruce Weiner collection and related Automobilia will be sold by Christie's at Jack Barclay's showroom, Vauxhall, London on March 6, two days after the company's collectors' cars auction there. Information and catalogues 0171-839 9060

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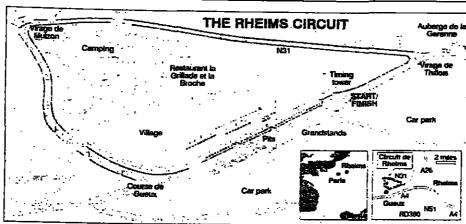
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Historic Rheims dream recreated

The famous French racetrack's glory days are set to

be recreated this summer, reports Eve-Ann Prentice THE RHEIMS CIRCUIT



t is so long since grands prix were held at Rheims that Damon Hill remembers the circuit for driving his pedal-car there.

The current Formula One world champion was pictured at the circuit alongside his father Graham, who held the track's lap record in 1962.

Now, nearly 30 years after the last grand prix was held at the track in the heart of Champagne country, the circuit's glory days are to be recreated. Stirling Moss will join other motorsport legends at the grand-prix and 12-hour race re-enactments in the first weekend of July.

Between 1925 and 1969 the Rheims circuit at Gueux-en-Champagne became one of the fastest in Europe. Damon Hill says: "What I find amazing is that my father, who built half of his reputation on the curvy roads of Monaco, was just as comfortable on the long straights of Rheims.

This year's recreation of the ghts, sounds and smells of



Scenes from Rheims, from left: the start line at the narrow-looking track; Harry Schell at the 1951 French GP in his Maserati, and Richard Pillkington in a 1938 Talbot Lago

Rheims will take place on July 5-6 and be strictly a one-off event. The organisers, the Automobile Club of Champagne-Ardenne and Promocourse International, have won permission from the French government to close the main Route Nationale 31, which forms one side of the eight kilometre (five mile) cir-

British motorsports enthusiasts have made Rheims a place of pilgrimage in the decades since races ceased to be held there and the good news for them is that entrance to next year's event will be free. Trisha Pilkington, who runs

the Tops Enthusiasts Club based near Dartmouth in Devon, has been assigned the task of finding British cars and

drivers to take part. "Stirling Moss will be there, Tony Brooks and Roy Salvadori." she says. "We have rounded up about 40 so far including six former Rheims winners. Ken Wharton and Peter Whitehead who had the first win in a Jaguar D-Type in 1954 will be there."

from a visit to Rheims and she

Pilkington has just returned

adds: "Restoration of the old pits and grandstand is already well in hand. Many trees have been removed which were growing up through the buildings and structural checks have been carried out on the grandstands to ensure they are fit for public use." Between

40,000 and 80,000 people are expected at the event.

centre of motoring history since the start of the century: five key factories opened there. including Brasier and Germain Lambert. The racing circuit largely

Graham Hill and son Damon line up on the grid at Rheims in the Sixties. Hill senior broke the track record in 1962 on the long French straights

owes its existence to one man. Raymond "Toto" Roche, who began dreaming of a racetrack using public roads in 1923, when Rheims was still recovering from the ravages of the

Great War. After Roche retired in 1967, the Rheims circuit only survived for two more years. Rheims holds a special place

in French history as the cuthedral city where most French kings were crowned, where the German army surrendered on May 7 1945, and as the capital of the Champagne region. The irony is that alcohol advertising is strictly banned at French motorsports events - even though generations of champions have sprayed gallons of the stuff in

Next year's re-enactment of Rheims's heady days will be almost non-stop, lasting from Jum on the Saturday morning until 7pm on the Sunday with just seven hours' respite between 2am and 9am on the Sunday. The timetable includes recreations of pre and postwar Formula One. Two and Three races, and the famous Rheims 12 Hours. There will be demonstrations by touring cars. GTs and ngle-seaters.

They are not allowed to have out-and-out races because the pits are within a couple of feet of the track but there will be no lack of speed people don't half go for it." says Pilkington.

Anyone wishing to contact Trisha Filkington should tele-phone 01803 722357.

Helen Mound on the Dutch women Citroën racers



Competitors include secretaries, students, and one of Holland's top soap actors

Playboy girls' thrilling laps

THE CONTEST'S name suggests gorgeous women modelling on the bonnets of racing cars, promoting that doyen of men's magazines, Playbov. But these aren't your usual doe-eyed centrefold babes. they're Dutch racing drivers competing for the hotly pursued Citroën Saxo Cup

Driving at speeds up to 127mph against 23 other racing drivers, these women are beating the men at their own game, despite many of them never having driven a race car until last year. Out of a national line-up of 24 drivers. Holland has eight female entrants, and they have their own women's championship. known as the Citroen Saxo Playboy Cup.

In the 1996 Europe-wide Citroën Saxo Championship there were 220 entrants competing in seven national series: Holland, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy. Portugal and Switzerland When Germany joins the Championships for the 1997 season the number of competitors will rise to 300. But it's Holland that has the greatest proportion of female entrants. Only the liberal-minded Dutch would consider holding a female championship

美术事

as politically incorrect as

layboy. Single-marque championships are commonplace in the UK: manufacturers such as Honda, Peugeot, Renault. field regularly sell their cars enthusiasts who race against each other. But for now, Citroën UK has no plans to introduce the Saxo Cham-

pionships in Britain. The Saxo race car is very different from other singlemarque race cars, because Citroen spent more than six months developing it for its very specific task. Most car manufacturers produce basicstripped-out versions of their road cars and leave the customers to develop them into

tuned racing machines. The French company went to great lengths to produce a racer so close to an optimum specification that there's very little customers can do to improve it. Normally in racing, the more money you spend the better the car you have, and the greater your chance of winning. But by giving everyone the best possible car from the outset. Citroen has ensured that winning relies on the driver's

for the Saxo Playboy Cup have the potential for big budgets, Ingeborg Wieten is Holland's top television soap actress. But others are secre taries and even students with limited funds.

TO COMPETE in a full season of the Saxo Championship, Dutch entrants need around £10,000 to £15,000 to cover running costs, and the car costs another £11.000: in motorsport terms this is considered cheap.

One thing the Playboy racers do have in common is youth. To ensure a competitive edge, Citroën introduced a 35-year age limit, which means older, more experienced, racing drivers don't spoil the youngsters' fun.

The result is a truly exciting racing series. The action is so close that the time separating the winners from the losers across the finish line is often less than two seconds, and the top ten are usually split by tenths of a second. Compare that with Formula One. where the winner can often be several laps ahead of the lastplace man.

Calling all classic car adventurers. It's the century's last London to Sydney rally



Chris Woodley's three-litre Vauxhall Ventora roars through Turkey in 1968. The organisers are keeping to the original route as far as possible

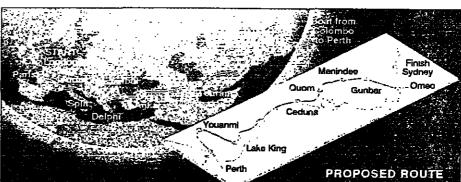
Nower Bridge, one of the London Marathon, is to be the starting point for another sporting odyssey next year — but it is one that spans 10,000 miles, writes Eve-Ann Prentice.

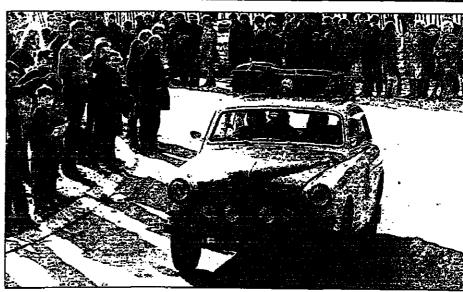
Plans were unveiled this week for a London to Sydney classic car rally starting in November 1998. The event, for up to 75 cars, will mark the 30th anniversary of the 1968 event and is likely to be the last great trans-continental epic of

the century The Classic Rally Association, which is organising the run, says it is aimed at cars which were in production before 1968. Porsche 911s andd Ford Escorts are unlikely to find favour with the organisers, who want to place an emphasis on older cars." said a spokesman. However. classes for 1.4-little hatchbacks and modern diesels are also

being considered. The course, across Europe and Asia to India, by sea or air to Perth in Western Australia and then through the midsummer heat of the Antipodes to Sydney, is closely based on the 1968 route, One key change is that war-stricken Afghanistan is bypassed, with entrants crossing the North West Passage region of Pakistan into

Travelling from one side of the world to the other means that politically sensitive areas cannot be avoided altogether. The rally is planned to travel into Iran, were women entrants will be expected to cover their legs and wear a headscarf.





John La Trobe and Bill Chesson's Volvo leaves Crystal Palace on the first rally

"Some Americans were very uneasy about Iran, but provided they don't emblazon themselves with the Stars and Stripes and go drinking, there shouldn't be a problem," says Peter Browning of the Classic Rally Association. "We have found friendly co-operation from all the countries we intend to pass through."

The organisers are investigating a choice of route to Istanbul, the favourite being a possible reopening of the dramatic Dalmatian coastal high-

way in the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia and Montenegro — the course driven by the second London to Sydney rally in 1977.

The marathon is planned to continue across Greece and Turkey before entering Iran.

and roads en route have changed little since the 1960s. Once in India, entrants will be airlifted to Perth or shipped by roll-on, roll-off ferry from Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Philip Young, who heads the organising team, has also masterminded this September's Peking to Paris Motor Challenge. Young has recently driven from India in a Peugeuor 504 bought from the classified pages of Classic Car Weekly for £1,200. He considers slightly older Peugent 404s. Triumph 2000s. Austin 1800s, Rover 3-litres, MGBs and Citroens all "budget front-

ntrance fees have not yet been fixed but Young hopes to keep it to around 15,000 to enable as many people as possible to consider entering. There are no special stages "or anything that smacks of modern motor sport", he says.

The 1908 event was won by Andrew Cowan, Colin Malkin and Brian Coyle in a 100horsepower Hillman Hunter. just pipping the BMC "Landcrab" Austin 1800 driven by Paddy Hopkirk, Alec Poole and Tony Nash

More than 80,000 people watched the start of the 1908 rally at Crystal Palace in London. Next year's event. with time controls and checkpoints intended to recreate the original style and flavour. aims to "attract adventurers who enjoy driving classic machines, with the camaraderie

that springs from conquering long distances with fellow enthusiasts ". says Young.

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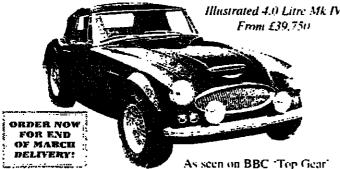
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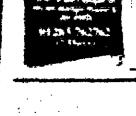
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Ford's Mondeo: luxury a world apart

UNLIKE THE darts I have thrown in years gone by, or the paintbrush I recently wielded. Ford's Mondeo goes exactly where you point it. writes Eve-Ann Prentice.

"Oh, you be careful, it is very powerful," friends and colleagues said as I took over the car for two glorious weeks. most knowing I am more used to tottering elderly Hyundai Ponys and VW Beedles than showroom-sparkly power-machines with just a couple of hundred miles on the clock. They were right to worry;

the Mondeo X's acceleration projected me quicker than I expected towards the end of a line of cars waiting at traffic lights. But that lesson learned, the Mondeo felt like the safest car I have ever driven - not least because of its ability to surge ahead.

Old Street roundahout in rush-hour central London, for instance, is not known for tolerant road-users; traffic builds up behind you at an astonishing rate unless you move out swiftly into the circulating

mayhem. What a blissful difference the Mondeo Ghia X's powerful 2.5 litre engine makes. when you can safely move out without feeling that even a beat-up old taxi is going to outpace you.

But just as im-

portant is the car's precision; it combines the surefootedness of a mountain goat with the elepant musclepower of a racehorse. The sharp dip in tempera-

tures also proved an ideal testing ground for the Mondeo. Heated front seats are a gorgeous luxury on frostdusted mornings. Traction control means that even slush. ice and grit fail to loosen the Mondeo's grip. It uses the ABS sensors to monitor the speed of all road wheels. As soon as a driven wheel begins ment, bonding, bags of nails,

PEOI KJN Traction control makes the Mondeo a delight in frozen Britain. Warm seats help, too

torque of the engine by closing the throttle and, at low speeds, applies the brake to the spinning wheel. When activated. you feel a very slight kick followed by hard resistance in the accelerator pedal. Combine its light man-

oeuvrability with the psychological 'Friends airbags and pretensioner seatbelts. warned the palpable ease of a driving seat me about which is electronically positioned to the car's provide a near-perlect driving pospower' ture, and you have a car which is stu-

pendously relaxing to drive in town, country and on the motorway As you would expect with a luxury car, there are loads of added extras to make life that little bit less arduous, from the CD player and audio system

with remote control attached to the steering column, to the enormously roomy luggage compartment. My poorly aimed paintbrush is just a tiny symptom of a megarestoration at home. My poor Hyundai has been struggling with sacks of sand and ce-

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nuts and bolts, and gallons of paint. At times, it has looked pitifully near overloading. Yet the Mondeo managed to

cope with two heavy loads of building materials in the boot without seeming to drop a millimeter on its haunches. Nothing, alas, is perfect and

the slight quibble I have might seem churlish, had it not led to moment of consternation. Driving along a slip-road from a trading estate after yet another building-supplies binge, I checked the rear and side-view mirrors, indicated and, seeing a coach in the exterior mirrors approaching from what seemed some distance away, pulled out ahead of it. An angry honking and my own glance in the rearview mirror let me know that the coach had not been as far behind as the side mirrors had

It was only later that I found the following exhortation in a "quick guide" to the Mondeo tucked in the glove compartment: Exterior mirrors -Convex mirrors minimise the so-called blind spot at the rear quarter of the vehicle. Objects seen in the mirror, however. will appear smaller and further away than they actually are. Bear this in mind when judging distances."

seemingly shown.

conditioning, six-CD autochanger, heated front seats, ten-way power-adjustable driver's seat, cruise

control. Six-spoke 15in alloy wheels. Price: £21,945. ■THE NEW Mercedes-SPARE PARTS

journalists from 14 European countries. The lorry can drive for up to 75,000 miles between services - nearly three times around the world -■ DAEWOO HAS become and has electronic disc brakes as standard for the first time on a heavy truck, reducing stopping distances

George Bennett, editor in chief of Truck Magazine for the award, cited econo-

by up to 25 per cent.

Benz Actros lorry has been

voted International Truck

of the Year for 1997 by

my, safety and comfort as three areas which had impressed judges. The lorry appeared on UK roads this

MONDEO GHIA X

Engine: 2.5 litre V6

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Performance: top speed 139mph; 0-60mph

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cycle 20.8mpg; extra urban 39.8mpg;

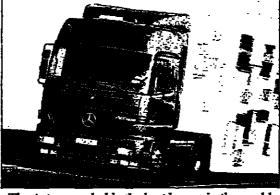
combined 29.7mpg.

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control, trip

computer, traction

the first carmaker in Britain to offer three years' free insurance, on its new Nexia and Espero models. Standard excess of £150 applies for most and there are standard exclusions for those with drink-drive



JSED CAR BRIEF

MITSUBISHI GALANT (1984-1993)
The Galant made its innovative name on all fours, its four-wheel-drive format coupled to highly turusual four-wheel steering. That name was underscored by the car's phenomenal rallying and motorsport successes. The first generation was launched in 1984 with 1.8 and 2-litre petrol and 1.8-litre turbodiesel. Available as four-door saloon or five-door hatch, the 4WDAWS GT was launched in 1989. New Galanticuted to 1999, with 24 petrol 1989 and 1989.



Cars fitted with the Diamond Option Pack, offering all including an electric sunroot and electric windows, are worth seeking out. As well as the GTI 16-valve car, which offers smooth

a tight hold on their cars and mo than three-quarters return to buy

Galaris were never sold in big numbers s are relatively scarce. Mitsubishi owners kee

suspension, this can be reflected in service and repair costs. Cover from AA The four-wheel-four-wheel-steer in particular give much improved Mitsubishi Galant 2-li GTi costs a 55-year-old profession



grip on the road, as well as enhanced stability at speed when comering, changing lanes and

U11 costs a 55-year-old professions male or temale, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £255 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £1,708, and a similar female pays £1,342 Expect to pay around \$1,000 for a very early Galant saloon. Pay \$2,225 for a 1988 E-re Galant 1800 GLS four-door salo Calam 1800 for a 1991 H-reg 2-fitre GLSi five-door hatchback, £7,000 for a 1983 K-reg 2-fitre GTi 16-valve 4WD salcon, and £7,400 for a 1993 K-reg 2-fitre GTi 18v 4WD/4WS.

96 N, Azurite metallic, grey

leather, climate control

MFS, FCS, 3,000 miles.

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Tel: 01473 732977/

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SL500

95M, 16,500 miles, blue/black full body colour, mustyroom interior, AMG whoels, also 8 hole alloys as winter set, heated seets, orthopeadic drivers seet, rear seets, CD 10 stack system climate control

stack system, climate co FMBSH, 262,000.

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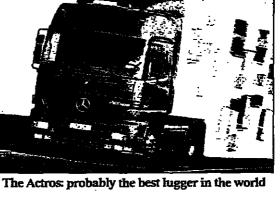
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E280

94L, 66Kmls, met pearl,

inei 400 SEL) March 92

Very few Galants are found in private sales, since those not kept are part-exchanged for enother one. That leaves Misubishi dealers as the preferred buying route, where a full eminerally solid, proven performer, let down by an image nowhere near as exciting as its ability merits.



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from new, suproof, alloys

red, FMBSH, £19,995.

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matic, 94L, multivalve

50k, FSH, immac inside

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Tel: 0171 736 5619 E220 Coupe, 94 M.

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What the juice? How forecourt confusion can make you feel a stranded four-star fool

I fie of a receipt.

One mistake

cost Susan

Brown a

wrecked day and a good

deal of money

about 300 yards from the garage. coasting as if I had run out of petrol; odd. because I had just

I spent some time pressing the accelerator to coax the newly purchased petrol through the system. The more I did it, the less enthusiastic the engine sounded. Eventually it felt as though only the ignition was co-operating.

I gave up, worried about the battery. Six years in this Volvo without major incident. I thought, and this is the day it all ends. This conviction was strengthened by the smell from the car. I was blocking one of the two lanes on a main London artery. It was 3pm.

It was only now that a connection between this trouble and my recent visit to the garage occurred to me. Had I put in the wrong octane? I fished out the till receipt. It said: DERV £35.64.

Derv? Not petrol? I had passed into a nether region, a place I'd heard about dimly but had never visited. A puncture or a flat battery can elicit sympathy. This was just horribly stupid.

The plans for the day flashed in front of me. My daughter's return from school at 4.30pm. The invitation to rea at 4.45pm. The evening out at 6.30. The absence of a mobile phone. The thin clothing, I put on the warning lights, locked the car and trudged back to the garage. "I've just filled up with Derv by mistake. What do I do?"

he attendant shook his head. This is going to cost you a lot of money."

I rang the AA. A woman said: "You'll need to get the tank pumped out. If you go to an AA depot it'll cost about 530. If we tow you to a garage it'll cost more than 585."

I plumped for the depot. As I was a woman on my own. someone would be there as quickly as possible, she said. I and went back to the car.

After an hour and a quarter I rang again. "We've been trying to contact you." said a man. I didn't ask how. "One of our contractors is going to take you back to a garage in SWIS and then they'll charge you. It'll be about £85 and then there II be a charge for disposing of the fuel."

"I want to go to an AA depot". I said. "I was told that would cost £30". "Who told you that?"



Susan Brown thought her Volvo's life was ended when it ground to a smelly halt

contractor". Faced with this arcane

world of depots and contractors and pumping out I grew "Look", I said, "I don't know

anything about all this. I just want to go to a depot because it's cheaper".

supervisor". A man came on

the line who had been specially trained to talk to hysteries who had just filled up with derv. He did not know where the E30 figure had

come from. In fact the depor would cost \$70. Challenged, he agreed that the contractor's bill was likely to be well over

I want to go to the depor". I chanted.

"I'm going to put you on hold. Bear with me." He disappeared. I bore with him for a good ten minutes. When he came back he was speaking even more slowly and gently.
"We're going to take you to the

AA depot. In Weybridge. Well, you can't go to the One of our contractors is said they had four or five cases oot. We've allocated you to a coming out to you now with a a day, but that wasn't enough towaway vehicle".

My contractor arrived a little ahead of schedule. On the way to Weybridge he agreed that not wearing the AA uniform did sometimes pose a problem. Once he had been

Punctures

elicit

sympathy.

This was

called out at 2am to help a woman trics had failed on a remote road. She had just managed to give the AA her whereabouts when her mobile phone batteries ran out. When he arrived

just stupid' she assumed he had come to murder her. It took him an hour to persuade her to open her window wide enough to take his mobile phone and

check his bona fides. the reception Weybridge we discussed costs. It emerged that AA policy had changed at the beginning of December, Previously, sorting out what I had done was considered a normal call-out. Now, it was the driver's fault. and the depot was required to pass on its costs to me.

The mechanic in reception nationally to justify changing the nozzle shape of diesel pumps. Most petrol engines, he said, would suffer no longterm damage, but putting petrol in a diesel engine could

wreck it. It was cold. There was a handful of tattered magazines. l waited an hour and a half. No one told me what was happening. The same man came out and said they couldn't get it started: "This happens sometimes." Finally, merciffuly, it did

start. We completed the paperwork. They charged £10 for a bit of petrol to get the car to a garage and E70 for the repair. Then it cost another £35 to refill the tank. I now belong to the secret

brotherhood of people who have contaminated their fuel tanks. I arrived home six and a half hours later than intended, to face my family's derision. Getting the pumps wrong is very expensive: it takes a very long time: it can destroy your engine and (I'm told by friends) your relationship. And everyone thinks you're a

complete fool.



Pat Prentice fell victim to a badly signed

forecourt, but discovered he

wasn't alone

Tergie, an old grey die-sel, was the first vehiide I ever drove on my own, at the age of eight. By the time I was 15, I had managed combines, cars, motorbikes and vans and even an old Jowett truck with a crash gearbox.

It was Lincoinshire and the policeman rode a pushbike and lived in the next village. Stubble field or road, it made no difference.

I had also mixed fuel for my model aircraft engines. In those days, amyl nitrate was something you popped 3 per cent of into the little tank to make your 3cc PAW Combat Special a bit zippier.

1 knew the difference between paraffin, petrol and the agricultural and commercial varieties.

Since then I have driven snow scooters in Iceland, catamarans off Queensland, spud spinners near Spalding and aircraft in Africa. I have even instructed a museum curator on handling a horse-drawn binder.

So how, after all this time, did I find myself sitting in the middle of London in my newly acquired diesel Land Rover Discovery with the increasingly embarrassing feeling that three days earlier I had contrived to fill it to the brim with petrol?

And how was it that even after my discreetly mirthful mechanic had arrived and confirmed my suspicions, did still feel so certain that I couldn't be entirely that stupid? In the ensuing hours, I manfully shrugged and faced the ridicule. I knew as I left the pub that night that the final long burst of laughter as I closed the door was for me. And yet I knew I had

checked the pump. It bothered me for quite a while as I ran my newly emptied and then refilled tank

Then the moment came: I had to confront my folly. I the different pumps more drove back to the filling station in East Greenwich and got a surprise.

There was the diesel pump just as I remembered. It said: "Diesel" in big letters and was set apart from the petrol pumps. I

the pub

at me'

checked again. Beside it.was a smaller sign also saying diesel, and one saying four star. Surely, this was the premium die-I had read about in

manual? The manager was on the forecourt taking delivery of petrol in a tanker. I called him

out of this pump?" "Diesel" he assured me.

"No" I said. "Petrol". He looked quizzical, then puzzled. He scrutinised the labels on the pump. "Ah. No." Er ... This one's petrol. This side, on the right. That is diesel, and there is more diesel on the other side ...

by the AA to empty and clean a tank filled with the wrong fuel is an example of the increasing cost of increasing cost of call-outs faced by the motoring organisations, it also reflects the fast-growing number of avoidable calls.

The RAC says that regular maintenance could prevent half the three million calls attended each year. It operates a "Fair Call" policy which protects the majority of from those who use roadside services

Now it is to breakdown bonus for needing roadside assistance. It will be available to members who pay higher level subscriptions for services such as Rescue Recovery and Reflex

Under the scheme, no-claims discounts of 13 to 22 per cent will be offered to members careful enough to avoid a call-out. A pilot scheme is being introduced for 18,000 existing members who will be offered a £25 discount when they come subscriptions.

A spokesman said: "The majority of RAC members take great care to ensure that their cars are properly serviced and well looke after. We want to

There ... " He did not sound spontaneous. But I was, as I harshly advised him to label clearly. I left to fill up

With hindsight, and goodwill. I can see that there was room for error on both sides. I may still be the biggest bonehead in motoring

Yet nowhere did The long the pump say "Petroi". For the next few laughter in

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:23111

days I began to feel a little vindicated. I pass the filling station regularly. was aimed don't intend to go back. A few days later, I glanced at the diesel pump. There was a

woman just about to fill up her diesel Discovery. bumped to a halt and showed She looked startled as i jumped out and crossed the

road towards her. Then I explained breath-"Not that one. It's petrol. The diesel's on the other side. The nozzle next to it." Her reply was better than gratitude. "Oh. Thanks," she said, turning a bit red in the face. "Confusing, isn't it?"

Three light years to hit 100mpg

· Vaughan Freeman on how VW will seek a Holy Grail in the Dead Sea

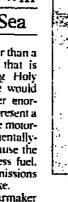
The 100mpg car will be on our roads within three years, says VW, thanks in large part to a weight-saving regime that would put even the Nigel Lawson diet plan to shame.

The secret ingredient of the super-light and super-frugal mini VW of the very near future is magnesium, a fraction the weight of steel, and which from early next year VW will be extracting in huge amounts from the mineral-

clogged Dead Sea. At one time, every manufacrurer sought to include in its model range a car that would reach 100mph. Doing the ton is now old hat, illegal and politically incorrect. It is the mass-built car that can achieve 100mpg, in everyday conditions and driven by the

average motorist rather than a feather-footed expert, that is the modern motoring Holy Grail. Such a vehicle would offer the manufacturer enormous prestige, and represent a quantum leap to make motoring more environmentallyfriendly, not only because the car would consume less fuel. but also exhaust emissions would be cut at a stroke.

VW is not the only carmaker homing in on the 100mpg target. Ford has just unveiled a radical concept version of its Ka, the Ka Step One, which weighs 610 kilos (just over half a ton). Ford has turned to carbon fibre mouldings, very light, strong but too expensive and complex to employ for a volume production run. The Step One may be a one-off for now, but the company says it



strict test conditions. VW got its lingers burned with its Goif Ecomatic, production of which has now ceased, and which was based on the diesel Golf. The Ecomatic saved fuel by automatically turning off its engine when the car was stopped, for instance at traffic lights, then

The Polo, currently VW's smallest car: the 100mpg vehicle will tip the scales at barely two-thirds its weight has achieved 90mpg under pressed the accelerator. But alternatives that are amenable the idea never caught on, not to mass car construction. least because motorists were Dietrich Meyerdierks, head not prepared to pay the extra of the VW Environment and

5800 over and above the cost of a regular Golf TDi, however green" it was. manulacturer to offer a high

So VW's 100mpg car will sell for around £8,000, with highly expensive lightweight composites shunned in favour of tried

vehicle. We will not accept any compromise in terms of safety. It will be smaller than the current Polo, not cheap, but Transportation Department, competitive." says: "We want to be the first

quality 100mpg car, and we

are quite confident that we can

that it will be a five-seat

It will be capable of just over 80mph, and with a somewhat leisurely 0-60mph time of justunder 20 seconds, but as well do it before the end of the as passengers (four in comfort century. We can definitely say and five at a squeeze) it will be able to carry some luggage.

started by cutting vast amounts of weight. Unlike Ford, rather than relying on pricey and technically complex carbon fibres, the weight savings are coming by the use of aluminium for the chassis, as has been tried and tested in the Audi A8 (built by VW's luxury carmaking arm), and magnesium. As a result the 100mpg car will tip the scales at barely two-thirds the weight of its current smallest car, the Polo

the gearbox casings, which will save 4.5 kilos compared to the usual iron version. Magnesium was used to save back-end weight on the VW Beetle with its rear-mounted engine and gearbox, but the alloys then used were prone to corrosion and magnesium was expensive. Now VW claims the magnesium being refined at its plant on the Dead Sea is much purer, less prone to deterioration, and by entering a joint venture partnership in its production hopes to guard against fluctuations in price.

Aluminium, which strength for strength is up to 40 per cent. lighter than steel, will also play an important role without any loss of crash protection. Plastics too will be used where possible rather than glass. By using plastic composites in the headlights, VW have cut the weight by two kilos. But humble steel is not dead

How will the dream come yet. New technologies will use true? Like Ford, VW has thinner sheets of steel sandwiched together, offering greater strength and rigidity, but which will be between 10 and 15 per cent lighter than conventional steel car sections.

aking the car more aking the car more aerodynamically slippery means the new VW will have a fluid. streamlined shape, reducing air resistance by 20 per cent brings a 10 per cent fuel saving at motorway speeds. Magnesium will be used for

It is not just about saving weight, however. The car will injection diesel engine, and probably a six-speed gearbox so that motorway speeds can be achieved in top gear with the engine running at extremely low revs to minimise fuel consumption. Nothing will be left to

chance, and even the tyres will be specially designed to cut rolling resistance and get the most out of each gallon. The "miser tyres", using special tread patterns and newlydeveloped rubber compounds, will cut rolling resistance by 40 per cent, resulting in a 7 per cent fuel saving.

Over recent years cars have become increasingly absternious. In 1978 the average small family car consumed around 28mpg. A decade later that was 35mpg, and now it is 40mpg. By 2005 the overall average should be 47mpg.

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It's the time of the signs

MOTORISTS TAKE them Most of us never give them a second thought, except in the very rare event that they are wrong. But this month, the AA is celebrating the 90th anniversary of Britain's first directional road sign, a modest circular wooden affair put up in Hatfield, Hertfordshire,

Alan Copps writes.
Those first signs were put up on the approaches to towns and villages, and simply gave the name and the mileage to the nearest place of any size. On the roads of 1907, with garages few and far between, they were an invaluable guide to pioneer drivers.

Most were removed during the Second World War but more than a hundred are known to survive. They were the first product of AA Signs, the organisation still responsible for the familiar yellow signs that point motorists to events from a village festival to Wimble-

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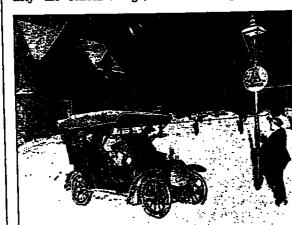
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don or Euro 96.
From the safety point of view, a more important pioneering effort was probably the reflective sign,



Early reflective sign

with its balls of red glass embedded in a wooden post to warn of sharp corners. These led to the standard road warnings we know today.



The first directional road sign, at Hatfield, 1907

Why don't drivers take heed?

Better forecasts

are in store,

says James

Luckhurst

Tinter always seems to take motorists by sur-prise. However the bad weather alerts, and however many warnings are issued by motoring organisations and local authorities, there are usually plenty of reports of mayhem. ailbacks and accidents.

Are the forecasters or the motorists to blame, and is there ever likely to be a change in the pattern? Next week assuming that road conditions allow them to make the journey — a group of experts will gather in London to address those questions.

One of them is Roland Chaplain, who established a network of weather watchers ten years ago to provide reports and predictions to help those responsible for keeping Scotland's roads safe.

"Information to motorists has hitherto been restricted to road condition reports that could be several hours old," he says. "We have to move towards a situation where we can find out the likely conditions in a few hours' time. That's far more useful for motorists, as they can plan

their journeys accordingly."

The traditional public perception of weather information is that it should be free, and Chaplain's vision follows that idea, with organisations who might otherwise be in competition sharing information. The present system is working against the public interest. Weather forecasts need to be involved not just in scientific interpretation but in providing accurate but easily digestible information that's in the best interests of the audiences who want it."

So will the time come when motoring organisations can go beyond frequent warnings to take care, allow extra time and



carry a shovel in the boot? Nick Simmons of AA Roadwatch is excited about the future, but with reservations about cost. "Any organisation that provides accurate, relevant information has to be concerned with profitability. We are looking into on-line services, the Internet and sophisticated in-car equipment to provide the sort of weather information drivers want, at an affordable price."

But there's a big danger in putting dynamic meteorological predictions into the hands of non-experts who do not appreciate when they are relevant and when they have become out of date, according

to BBC Radio 5 Live's weather expert, Philip Eden. "Motor-ists have been accused of ignoring warnings from motoring organisations, but this may well be because the warnings themselves carry little that's new or relevant." The truth is that much

better, more up-to-date authoritative information does exist, and organisations like the Met Office are now more to providing geared customised forecasts that best serve the interests of their commercial customers. "We have developed extremely accurate local forecasts that pay close attention to road surface temperature over a period of

hours," says Met Office spokesman Andy Yeatman. Roadside sensors positioned strategically at sites chosen by council officials allow us and them to monitor changes in surface temperature that may call for a gritting operation."

o grit, or not to grit, is a complicated question, and one that could prove very expensive if a council manager gets it wrong. A full grit of the roads in Kent, for example, costs between £45,000 and £55,000, takes just over two hours and includes more than 2,000 miles of road. So if the grit proves unnecessary then a

big chunk of the county's £3 million winter weather budget has disappeared. Conversely. the legal implications of failing to grit when snow or ice does arrive are increasing. The gritting process has

improved dramatically over the past few years," says Dr John Thornes of Birmingham University, who is president of the Standing International Road Weather Commission. "It used to be the case that weather forecasters knew little about roads, and highway engineers knew little about weather, but greater co-operation, as well as training for the engineers, has done a lot to

This is just as well, as highway meteorology has a much higher profile these days, when a fatal accident can lead to legal claims worth millions, according to Chaplain. The way weather impacts on the road and transport is getting much more important, yet we are still waiting for a system where everyone can benefit."

John Thornes and Roland Chaplain will be speaking at a workshop on road weather conditions organised by the Meteorological Society, to be held on Wednesday January 15 at Imperial College, London

GENERAL

WINTER BREAKDOWNS ARE "SNOW" FUN...BUT HERE'S HOW TO AVOID THEM!

Surely, it's the one thing all motorists dreed. Picture this: After a week of cold, frosty nights you take your car on its first long journey of the winter. Your young tamily are with you. It's getting dark early and a snowstorm that left the roads white earlier in the day has restarted with a vengeance. Then you stall the car on an unfamiliar, lonely B road...and it won't restart! What do you do? There are no blankets of warm clothing in the car, thick show outside, the car is well and truly stuck and you don't yet belong to an

Entergency reactive organization in you take a few sensible steps now and get your car ready to survive the winter months.

But none of this need ever happen if you take a few sensible steps now and get your car ready to survive the winter months.

Car breakdown service Autonational Rescue has sponsored this special leature to help you and your car get through the colder months without ever having lo

Car breakdown service Autoriano as no worry about this nightmare scenario. And this is what you should do.....

SNOW PROBLEM

In deep snow, if you experience wheelspin trying to start off then don't carry on racing the engine. This will only dug the wheels in deeper. In usery struct, it you expenses to seeper.

Instead, try moving your car slightly backwards and torwards to get out of the rul, using the highest gear you can (first or second) for the conditions. Although you have to watch your speed on slippery roads, any loss of momentum going uphill on snow won't get you very far. But trying to regain lost speed may result in so much wheelspin that you lose control. They result in so that where a good gap behind the vehicle in front of you so that you can avoid a queue or hold up if he or she gets completely Agein, use a high gear uphill and leave a good gap behind the vehicle in front of you so that you can avoid a queue or hold up if he or she gets completely

Again, use a riight gase upon each team of your year and an are reasonal action of you are used or the use of the use of

Generally:

Mhen bed weather sets in, only make journeys it they are absolutely necessary, especially at night.

Make sure you have your car serviced at regular intervals, whatever the vehicle's age, so that it is less likely to cause you problems when you least need.

Make sure you have your car serviced at regular intervals, whatever the vehicle's age, so that it is less likely to cause you problems when you least need.

That's the useful, general advice. But there are several checks you can make before setting off on a win CHECK UNIE:
You should check that all your lights are working, from headlamps to indicators, tog lights to hazard warning. Also, check your interior lights - you don't want to get stuck in the dark if you can avoid it!

Check your washer bottle liquids and the wipers themselves.

CHECK THREE

CHECK POUR:
Sony to be so basic, but do you have enough petrol for your journey? Especially if you get stuck in traffic. This is a major cause of breakd

ESSENTIAL WINTER WARMERS

Why not carry these items in your car through the winter: Two blankets

Extra warm clothing A snow or ordinary shovel Hazard warning triangle Spare light builts First Aid Kit

with you and some tood.

Torch

And carry a mobile phone if you raise (or can allulu) with the past out of your ventilating and heating system when your windows. Another piece of sound advice is to study your car's handbook, so that you can get the best out of your ventilating and heating system when your windows. Anti Skid Massjor a piece or old carpes.

And carry a mobile phone if you have (or can afford) one. But make sure it's always fully charged.

mist or trost up.

Whatever you do, don't drive unless you can see properly all around you and treat other cars you see which are trosted or misted up as special hazards. Whatever you do, don't once unless you can see properly or should be seen out out out out you see which are trosted or misted up as special hazards.

The biggest single danger for any driver is not being able to see properly, so carry some demister/de-loar for the windscreen and other windows.

The biggest single danger for any driver is not being able to see properly, so carry some demister/de-loar for the windscreen and other windows.

But perhaps the most important rule of all in bed weather conditions is to keep your speed well down. The worse the road conditions, the slower your speed. There's no mileage in plunging through puddles..... or sidding on ica.

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Π197

Schumacher's toy story winner

Same name, same sport, but miniaturised.

It's a small

world, says Simon Hacker

uccess is a funny thing. While some young hopefuls called Schumacher spend their lives tearing after it. others with the same surname have it thrust upon them.

So runs the story of Northampton businessman Cecil Schumacher, if you'd asked him 20 years ago what he'd he doing by the age of 60, he might have predicted a happy retirement from his career as a design engineer in the motor industry. In a key post with Borg-Warner by 42, his boffinish head had already been hunted and bagged by Cosworth. But fate decided that this Schumacher was destined for smaller things.

"It all started at home. I was working on a race transmission system for Cosworth and my son Robin kept nagging me for a model car. I didn't want to get involved because I was so busy, so I bought him a low-tech one-eighth scale battery model."

However, because Robin's new racer had no front differential, the front tyres kept wearing out: "When he kept coming back for more money for tyres, I had a look at the car and decided to design and fit a diff myself."

But the solution proved too popular — Cecil found that Robin's friends all wanted one for their models. Cecil was unable to secure a patent for the subsequent "Schumacher diff", a simple but innovative ball-bearing mechanism driven by friction, but he decided to test the market all the same. Soon, a thriving kitchen-table industry began.

Investment in a plasticinjection-moulding machine quickly followed and Cecil began a partnership with his wife Brenda, with son Robin and his two sisters chipping in for pocket money. Before long.



Cecil Schumacher with examples of his radio-controlled cars. One record-breaking model has exceeded 70mph. Not bad for a venture that started on the kitchen table as a favour for his son's friends

production demands for an emerging range of tiny accessories necessitated relocation to the garage; weeks later the mini assembly line for complete small-scale racing machines spilled over into the garden shed.

The first full Schumacher model was the highly successful C Car, a one-twelfth scale buggy which sped off to win the model racing world's European Championships in

Mindful of the risks though,

Cecil kept his day job, viewing the sprouting of Schumacher Racing Products as little more than an amusing sideline. But all that changed when Brenda took him aside one evening to look at the accounts: "She showed me that the weekend

work was bringing in more a revelation. Cecil's world is than my time at Cosworth — one of shrink-wrapped Formuwe knew that it was time to go

Today, Cecil's company has an annual turnover that tops £2 million, providing work for team of 32 in purpose-built facilities. Each year, Schumacher components, kits and assembled cars are exported all over the world, costing between £70 and £300 for basic models without radio controls. Power comes from either methanol-fuelled combustion engines or electric battery-driven motors.

In a recent test around Silverstone's main circuit, a Schumacher test model set speed records for its class by averaging 50.5mph and exceeded 70mph on the straights. Schumacher pilot Tim Walden used a Caterham as a pace car. A tankful of fuel for the model cost 20p.

The company's current equivalent to the Ford Escort in volume terms is the one-tenth scale Competition All Terrain 2000 European Champion, or CAT. The first CAT, Cecil explains, pioneered new ideas and was "driven" by Masami Hirosaka to win the 1987 fourwheel drive World Championship - the first of many world titles. At competition races, offroaders can average around 25mph over tough terrain, although they can nudge 60mph on manicured lawn. If you suspected that racing

radio-controlled cars was just kids' stuff, the Schumacher workshop and design room is

la One all the talk is of carbon-fibre chassis (the mate rial is bought from a US

aircraft builder), anodised aluminium shock absorbers and titanium "speed seeker components. Adults and teenage model racers spend as much time tweaking suspension, programming gearing and calibrating shock absorbers as might motorsport's top.

"The races are fiercely com-petitive," says Cecil, "if you close your eyes and listen to the talk of spring ratings, tyre

motorsport event." Team Racing sponsors young get to race the latest kit and for the big events.
The rules that govern radio

tings, you could be at any

racing ensure a degree of skill which goes beyond thrashing around a circuit - we and our drivers have to know how to optimise a car's performance over many parameters. If you choose the wrong ratio, for instance, you might chase

neering and the basics of away from the start only to motorsport." But although model racing is essentially a nuts-and-bolts. hands-on sport, Schumacher's latest product, the SST 2000, can be bought as an off-thepeg one-tenth scale saloon touring car, aimed at the emerging ready-to-race mar-ket: We traditionally occupy the more serious end of the market - racing for guys who race to win. They want highintegrity products and though they want to beat the competition, they don't necessarily like to spend their time building

choice and suspension set- find the batteries or fuel have

gone in the final circuit. You have to judge when to put

special fluid on your tyres for

extra grip — and how that might affect performance."

assured Schumacher's success as modelmaker seems to have

come from a kickback from

interest in computer games:

"Parents now realise that these

models are an antidote to

screen watching. They get you

out into God's fresh air and

the kids learn all about engi-

Much of the growth of

But at the chequered hand-kerchief, surely a fair churk of Cecil's success has come down to his name? He laughs, but doesn't agree. "The name thing has certainly been a lot of fun — I get a lot of leg pulling and it's hardly harmful if people believe that there is a connection between the two of us. But our company stood on its own two feet before Michael came along -



The company's turnover now tops £2 million, providing employment for a team of 32 in purpose-built facilities

So how can we play?

My son is a bit of a tearaway. He's always fancied himself as a racing driver, but he's hardly going to hit the track in his old Mini. Do you think model racing might be a good outlet for his aggr... er enthusia

Well with all the current fears Well with all the current lears about road rage, anything which gives young drivers a chance to work off a bit of energy sounds worth a try. But model racing is a bit more than a miniature burn-up. Top drivers take it seriously and the technology that goes into the cars resembles the real thing.

You mean like every other hobby the boy has tried up till now, it's going to cost me an arm and a leg?

When it comes to the question of when it comes in the second to cost, we doctors like to refer you to a specialist: Chris Deakin, editor of Radio Race Car International magazine, says the rules ensure that the pace of technology doesn't make the sport unaffordable. "You can get into racing for as little as £200, but many of the latest electronic onboard aids could rule starters out - that's why traction control had to be banned."

DR DASHBOARD

Traction control? Whatever next Who formulates the rules for these model racers?

The British Radio Car Association (BRCA) oversees scaled-down events in the UK. As many as 12,000 The British Radio Car Association racers attend its meetings each year. For a free information pack, write to the BRCA at PO Box 122. Bolton, BLT 9WW.

I hope the rules aren't too complicated — my boy is not known for the length of his attention span. How strict are the regulations?

For each race, the type of engine is A specified and scrutineers check that each unit is sealed before and after battle. In championship races, the engine is usually taken apart to ensure it has not been souped up, while at battery-powered events, the cars are allowed one charge only per race.

This is beginning to really serious stuff. How fast will This is beginning to sound like these miniaturised machines go?

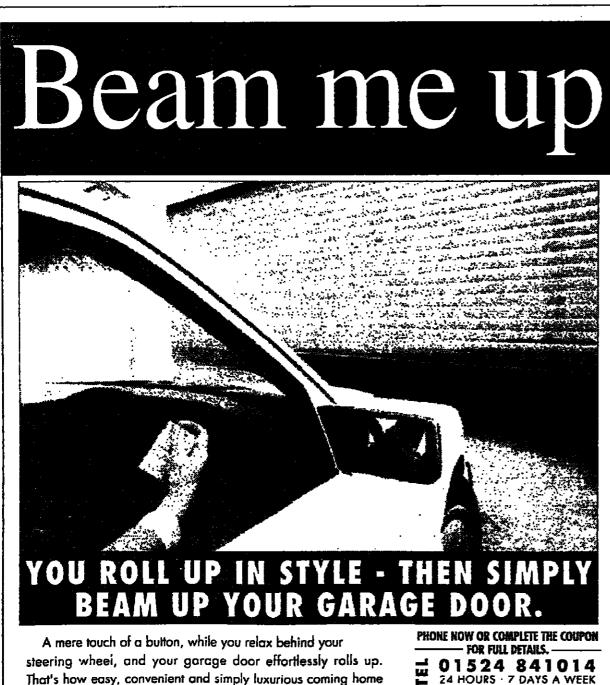
The most advanced technology has already made speeds of up to 60mph possible on grass. But the BRCA is very anxious that beginners should not be priced out of contention. There are similar strict rules to limit the strength of Nicad batteries, some of which now have huge capacity.

So would the doctor recommend this as an instructional pastime for my occasionally wayward son?

Again a specialist opinion is best. Chris Deakin says: A lot of the participants begin as frustrated Damon Hills, but they soon learn that this is no easy option. It's not for kids who want to play with toys."

So where can I take the boy to see what this radio-controlled motor racing stuff is like?

Contact the BRCA for details of local meetings. He could go a long way if he gets the bug. Last year the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu played host to the world championship methanol-powered off-roaders. There's also a European championship.



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